

R-390 Reflector October '02 Edited

From rodney_bunt@yahoo.com Tue Oct 1 02:59:56 2002
Subject: [R-390] IF alignment Using Sweep Generator

Jim,

Tune the IF centre frequency for that narrowest filter you are using. The others filters will be wider and the bandpass of the Xtal/mechanical filter will fall within the IF. If the "narrowest" filter were to fall on the "skirt" of the IF bandpass, then the IF gain would be lower as it would be at the edge of the IF, you would also get considerable distortion on MCW. Rodney VK2KTZ

From rodney_bunt@yahoo.com Tue Oct 1 04:52:35 2002
Subject: [R-390] Product detector rocks - USB/LSB rocks

Alex,

I contacted "International Radio" people who quoted prices for two rocks at \$35 plus postage, BUT they said they made a minimum of 10 rocks at a time, and I would have to buy them all, as they had no use for 45kHz rocks. So \$350 for them is a bit excessive. Any interest from 9 other SSB / product detector enthusiasts out there ??? Rodney VK2KTZ

From ody@radicus.net Tue Oct 1 05:46:13 2002
Subject: [R-390] Tube box source?

Hi, I have a bunch of tubes that are loose and wonder if anybody knows of a source to get those empty, plain white boxes. I need the size. that will fit 5814A, 6AK6 etc. Thanks, Scott W3CV

From tetrode@worldnet.att.net Tue Oct 1 13:39:32 2002
Subject: [R-390] Tube box source?

Scott, Antique Electronics Supply aka AES has these. URL is www.tubesandmore.com John

From battcharger@bol.com.br Tue Oct 1 14:57:02 2002
Subject: [R-390] Power Supply Modification

Could anyone help with suggestions regarding the substitution for both unavailable rectifiers tubes 26Z5 for 1N4007 diodes? I think a series 10 W/470 Ohm resistor is needed... Thanking you very much, Sam Rocha PY1 DKW, Brazil

From jamminpower@earthlink.net Tue Oct 1 15:50:48 2002
Subject: [R-390] Product detector rocks - USB/LSB rocks

You can get the crystals from JAN: <http://www.jancrystals.com/> I got a set for about \$14 each (in lots of 2!). It took about 6 weeks. No minimum quantity. The outside sales person was Sue Brick who is very helpful. Enjoy! www.jamminpower.com James A. (Andy) Moorer

From keng@moscow.com Tue Oct 1 18:25:33 2002
Subject: [R-390] Power Supply Modification

> Could anyone help with suggestions regarding the > substitution for both unavailable rectifiers tubes
26Z5

Although the SS mod can be helpful, in addition to the higher voltage problem, there can be other problems using them. For a possible solution to this common problem visit the following URL: http://www.mines.uidaho.edu/~glowbugs/r390_psmod.htm I have used this mod and it works very well. The tube used for this mod is cheap. Ken Gordon W7EKB

From jlkolb@cts.com Tue Oct 1 20:53:50 2002
Subject: [R-390] Product detector rocks - USB/LSB rocks

Well, \$35 a pair isn't much better than \$20 each for the 453.5 and 456.5 at INRAD, although the 453.6 and 456.3 would be a better match to the 2.0 kHz filter of the R-390.

This isn't an application that requires xtal stability - I'd go for either two LC tuned circuits - this would let you adjust the BFO freq relative to the mech filter edge to get the voice sound you prefer - or a large BFO tuning knob like on the CV-591, with an adjustable oscillator circuit tuning 455 +/- 3 kHz.

I've got some 455.0 kHz xtals if anyone has need of one. Work great if you have a matched pair of LSB/USB mechanical filters. John

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Wed Oct 2 18:08:59 2002
Subject: [R-390] Power Supply Modification

Hello,

For solid state rectifiers in the power supply a series 220 ohm 10 watt resistor may be added in the common lead to the rectifier cathodes. The official Navy modification calls for installation of the resistor under audio chassis. Excessive heat under the already hot audio chassis is the result. A better location is on the power supply. I've found it most convenient to connect the resistor from the high voltage secondary center tap to ground (don't forget teflon sleeve for the leads).

Each rectifier may consist of two 1N4007 in series.

For more information on pros and cons of solid state rectification for the R-390x, go to r-390a.net. Select "References" then "Pearls of Wisdom" then "Power Supply". You will find a lively and informative compilation of postings to this forum from the last few years. Drew

From tgrieco@optonline.net Thu Oct 3 11:53:05 2002
Subject: [R-390] LOOKING FOR HO606B SIGNAL GENERATOR

I am looking to purchase a H.P. 606B SIGNAL GENERATOR with manual .It must be in great shape

and include operators manual. Please contact me here or e-mail days to tommysfitness@snet.net or better yet a call to work is fine 1-800-499-3571 and ask to speak to Tim. Thank you k1syn

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Thu Oct 3 16:00:59 2002
Subject: [R-390] Dry cell battery question

Friends,

Have run across a couple of old (!) port. units and the owner wonders, as do I, (in reference to the meters I got):: Is there a source anywhere worldwide for dependable rare size dry battery, in partic. "B" values, and those odd size and value mil. from MANY dif. govts.. Anyone know anything about this?? Regards to All, John

From dave_faria@hotmail.com Fri Oct 4 00:32:31 2002
Subject: [R-390] Phase lock Loop Circuit

Has anyone ever tried this? How would it be done and is it reasonable? Dvae Faria WA5TEZ

From KMACKKEY@woh.rr.com Fri Oct 4 13:18:46 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Stuff for Sell

Hello to all on the group, Over two years ago I bought my first R-390A from Fair Radio. Shortly after this I bought another R-390A on Ebay. This one was only a one hour drive from my QTH so the price was really good, considering I was not going to have to pay shipping. The first radio was in Used Repairable condition. The second one was in pretty good operating condition and I use it in my Ham Shack. A but a year ago I bought a AN/URM 25D. I have not been able to check it out completely but it does seem to work. It was my intentions to restore these radios as part of my Ham Shack and as something to pass down to my kids.

In the intervening years I have yet to restore either one. The first one has been disassembled and partially cleaned. I have bought some spare tubes and other parts as part of my restoration plans. During this time I did not have any transmitters and so was just a listening Ham. This year I bought a 6M/2M/70cm HT just before the Dayton Hamfest and finally starting getting involved in Ham Radio.

I especially enjoy working the local National Traffic System nets in my area, and the local ARES and RACES groups. To get more involved I needed a good all band rig. So I just purchased an ICOM 706MKIIG. (I know it won't win me any contests, but I'm mostly interested in casual contacts and working some traffic nets.).

To be able to afford this I have decided to sell my R-390A's. The one radio which is already in parts I am going to sell as parts, the other I will sell as a complete radio. If anyone on the list has needs of parts, a nice radio to restore, or the signal generator, I am open to REASONABLE offers. I want to at least get back the money I have invested in these radios. If I am able to sell these items here in a relatively short time frame I will not have to post them to Ebay. I have an extra set of crystals and an extra face plate. One face plate is engraved, the other is not.

I wanted to post this sell here first as it is important to me that these items go to good homes where they will be lovingly used.

I've enjoyed learning more about these radios here on this list and hope that in the next couple of years I will once again purchase one of these fine radios to use in my shack. Is the R390 Net still operating on 20 meters? I might be able to check in now. Kim Mackey KC9BZL p.s. please respond off list to <mailto:kmackey@woh.rr.com>

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Fri Oct 4 15:27:23 2002
Subject: [R-390] Dry Battery Source

My Friends,

To repeat, and emphasize my last post: Being a bit limited in my tech. knowledge, I am still interested in finding out about dry cell/batt manu. in the modern world..

Was told that in the east, as well as a few old Comm. bloc nations, these things are still made in diff. szs. (much as the Russian tubes),...Also that there was some "leeway" in actual values, as it is not as hard to manage as the AC lines we normally use..(Also some out of Mainland China???)

Odd, but I have run across a few people here recently who are just "antique" coll., but two have batt radios frm the 40s/50s and want batterys..I need an odd 16V for an old VOM I have..as well..Also a 28V for a REAL antique meter someone else has...

Any chance of that? You know I don't keep up with most supply methods, and so would appreciate a hint on this..What I need the most is diff. sizes of the 67.5 volt "B" type..but wonder about all the port. mil we used to have (like pr's etc.) Surely there must be some batts around...Remember I don't have the time at the Lib. to do a lot of looking..(I know I must get my own comp..but I still don't want anyone in my home by line...I don't even have Cab. for TV!!!, and we were thinking of getting rid of the'phone as well...)

Also still have VTVM by Ballentine Labs, (could use batts.) This one has no cover..Free if you can use it.. (Uses five 1U4 and one 1J5 tubes. Works..). Other items will be sent 1st of week.. Regards, John

From tangeram@lucent.com Fri Oct 4 19:27:59 2002
Subject: [R-390] Staggered IF Question

I have a Capehart R-390a in truly excellent condition. It was apparently stored in a closet shortly after Vietnam. I've done a fair amount of recapping etc but the radio plays great and doesn't appear to need an alignment with one exception. I noticed that when I select the 4 kc and below filters the signal level as indicated by the carrier meter decreases by about 5-10db. This is true for .1, 1, 2 and 4kc vs. 8 and 16. I swept the input of the radio at the selected bandwidth say 16 kc from my generator and noted about 6 peaks throughout the 16 kcs I swept and noted proportionally less peaks for the lower bandwidths. So my theory and my question is am I seeing the peaks of the six tuned circuits in the IF (455)? Has this radio been stagger tuned to produce a uniform bandwidth in the wider positions? Is this why I notice a slight increase in gain when I select the wider selectivity positions? I notice that the manual calls for a peak alignment of the IF transformers.Seems to me this would cause a big "Hump" especially in the wider positionsand I'm better off with what I've got. Thanks, Tony

From kmackey@woh.rr.com Fri Oct 4 19:38:57 2002
Date: Fri, 4 Oct 2002 14:38:57 -0400

Hey everyone, I'm sorry if there has been any problems contacting me at my new email address. I did not realize that my return address had been set up incorrectly. I have fixed the problem and any replies to this or future emails should work right. Kim Mackey KC9BZL

From theprof@texoma.net Sat Oct 5 00:14:02 2002
Subject: [R-390] qth.net

I just got back from the range. My son and I burned about \$30.00 worth of powder and lead.

I received an email earlier this week asking me to support qth.net. I did my part. Thinking about it, I get just as much enjoyment from the lists here as I do the range. I encourage my fellow list members to do what they can to help. 73 de Richard, W5SRB

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Sat Oct 5 05:29:27 2002
Subject: [R-390] Dry cell battery question

John, These "B" batteries can be hard to find and quite expensive. Fair Radio Sales has some mil surplus "B" batteries that are a little bit aged, but I assume at least partially serviceable.

A friend of mine has made up B battery packs by connecting applicable new alkaline batteries in series. Size and number of interconnections may be kept down by using 9 volt units. Series strings may be paralleled for increased ampere-hour capacity (and increased cost). A fresh alkaline cell has an open circuit voltage of 1.6v and still has considerable life left after discharged to 1.1v. If you make the pack with a higher than required initial voltage longer service will result. Discharge data fairly representative of most alkaline batteries can be found at duracell.com/oem/primary/alkaline Drew

From courir26@yahoo.com Sat Oct 5 13:13:10 2002
Subject: Lili, was Re: [R-390] RF Deck: 8-16 mHz synchronization question

Greg and group, thanks for asking, yes we are in Lafayette LA and everything is OK here.

Summary: Lili passed just about right over us. Local winds were > 90 mph. I participated in the 14325 Kcs net until having to QRT as the shack is in a different building than the main house.

It is wierd to have the AFRES C-130's pssing over your home taking measurements. If that happens to you, it is not going to be good. I was listening to them on 304.8 Mcs and 13927 Kcs.

Our home is about 30 mi from the beach, some storm surge is not an issue here, but wind is.

Our house is OK with no damage. However, there are many houses nearby which have these lovely southern oaks now embedded firmly into their living rooms. Lots of heavy lifting equipment around and blocked streets. Travel by car is tricky in some neighborhoods. Motorcycle is advised for impromptu shortcuts.

A tornado passed about two blocks from me (sounds like heavy machinery) and tossed some large trees around. We had lots of moments punctuated with "damn, what was that!! Did you hear that!!"

The local cable TV tower fell on a lady's home. I went over to my dad's house in Rayne yesterday. He lives on a corner lot. I could not find a place to park for all of the debris. He had large trees fall on everything but his house.

FEMA and the Guard are here. Lots of hummers and helos. We were on generator power at my house for about 30 hours, with a wire running over the fence to my neighbor's house. Not exactly up to code, but it keeps the beer. . . . err . . . milk cold. Anyway, our house is back to normal, whatever that means, today. I'm passing the gen set to a coworker who took a tree into the house. 73 de N5OFF Lafayette, LA

From dsmaples@comcast.net Sat Oct 5 21:20:57 2002
Subject: [R-390] Various R390 issues

Hello all, and thanks in advance for the help! I have some more questions on the R390A:

1. I have seen many of you write up the use of Orange Drop caps to replace the Vitamin Q, etc., paper stuff. These caps have radial leads. In the Allied catalog is a vendor called ASC which offers axial-lead 400V metallized polypropylene caps with full temp rating at 105 degrees C. Any reason why I couldn't use these as alternatives to the Orange Drops? A 0.1 mfd 400 V cap is 0.328 diameter x 0.813 length...would seem like a pretty good fit, but before I fall off the table and run down that path I was wondering what the rest of you thought.
2. I have a case of sticking meters. They are original equipment. I have read that the original meters have radioactive material in them. Is it a coating on the needle to make it read in the dark, or ??? Is it possible to disassemble the meters to correct the sticking? Any other suggestions here?
3. Other than cosmetics, is there any particular reason why I should rebuild the large electrolytics? I am considering building an assembly to plug in in place of the caps, but it won't be a pair of round cylinders (so there will be a bit more room to work). Comments or suggestions here?
4. What kind of connectors are used on the coax cables between modules? Looks like an anemic BNC (grin). Reason I ask is that the insulation has cracked on a couple of the coax cables going to the IF assembly, and I see some repair work in the future (sigh).

Thanks again for the help and advice. It's a wonderful receiver, and works great with my Valiant II.
Dave Maples, WB4FUR

From ko6bb@juno.com Sat Oct 5 23:57:07 2002
Subject: [R-390] A "baby" R-390A

Hello All. A gentleman just dropped off an R-648/ARR41 receiver for repair. This aircraft receiver appears to be very similar to out "pets", the R-390A. But it is much lighter, smaller and has a somewhat different layout/circuit scheme.

He said it has poor audio on AM and expressed concern that he "hoped" it wasn't the 6kHz Crystal filter. Anybody out there worked on these? Does it have any "pitfalls" or other things that I should be aware of before "digging in"? 73 de Phil KO6BB

From billsmith@ispwest.com Sun Oct 6 01:09:46 2002

Subject: [R-390] Various R390 issues

>

> 1. I have seen many of you write up the use of Orange Drop caps to replace > the Vitamin Q, etc., paper stuff. These caps have radial leads. In the > Allied catalog is a vendor called ASC which offers axial-lead 400V > metallized polypropylene caps with full temp rating at 105 degrees C. Any > reason why I couldn't use these as alternatives to the Orange Drops?

First, are you sure the Vitamin Q's are bad? The VitQ caps in the R-390 here appear to be in excellent condition. Just ran across a can of Vitamin Q parts, NOS, but don't yet know the values, etc.

Regarding the caps you located, they sound great. I get similar caps from Bob's Antique Radios, though apparently they are made in Taiwan. Some people prefer all-American.

> 2. I have a case of sticking meters. They are original equipment. I have > read that the original meters have radioactive material in them.

I don't think all do, but if the needle and scales look "orange" or "burned" they are radioactive.

>Is it a coating on the needle to make it read in the dark, or ???

Yes, the needle and scale markings used to glow green. The phosphor is long spent, but the radium used to excite the phosphor is still quite active and will be for the next 20,000 or so years.

>Is it possible to disassemble the meters to correct the sticking? Any other suggestions here?

Meters in general can be disassembled, and, with thin strips of adhesive tape, particles in the meter movement can be removed to eliminate sticking. The R-390 meters can be disassembled but you need to be very cautious that you don't inhale any dust or material from inside the meter.

> 3. Other than cosmetics, is there any particular reason why I should rebuild > the large electrolytics?

Not sure which you are talking about. The power supply is probably ok (big oil-filled 4mfd or so cap). The AVC capacitors (2 x 0.1 mfd) are also oil, and have a high failure rate. I have rebuilt one of mine by gutting it and placing a 0.22 mfd polyester mylar inside. The other rests disconnected.

>I am considering building an assembly to plug in > in place of the caps, but it won't be a pair of round cylinders (so there > will be a bit more room to work). Comments or suggestions here?

Not sure why you need a plug-in assembly.

> 4. What kind of connectors are used on the coax cables between modules? Looks like an anemic BNC (grin). Reason I ask is that the insulation has cracked on a couple of the coax cables going to the IF assembly, and I see some repair work in the future (sigh).

Think the best bet is to recover and reuse the old connectors. They are hard to find.

> Thanks again for the help and advice. It's a wonderful receiver, and works > great with my > Valiant II. >> Dave Maples, WB4FUR

>

There are others who are much better equipped to advise you than I, hope they leave comments. 73 de

Bill, AB6MT billsmith@ispwest.com

From ai2q@adelphia.net Sun Oct 6 01:24:56 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390 and '390As for sale seen today at Hopkinton

FYI-type msg:

Those of us at the Hopkinton Fair grounds for the Hoss Traders hamfest today likely saw at least one nice condition R-390A (\$400) and a clean R-390 (\$800). I don't know if they sold, but both looked good, and had top/bottom covers, and original meters. AI2Q, Alex in Kennebunk, Maine

From root@al.tirevold.name Sun Oct 6 02:13:23 2002
Subject: [R-390] Additional Documents on tghe FAQ site

Ed Alves, KD6EU has graciously provided a number of documents to fill in the missing documentation on the FAQ site. I scanned them in and they are available at: <http://www.r-390a.net/faq-refs.htm>

Some of these are VERY BIG FILES!

Specifically, they are:

<http://www.r-390a.net/NAVSHIPS-0967-063-2010-1966Nov.pdf>
<http://www.r-390a.net/NAVSHIPS-0967-063-2011-T-1-to-FC6-1969Jun.pdf>
<http://www.r-390a.net/NAVSHIPS-0967-063-2010-T-2.pdf>
<http://www.r-390a.net/NAVSHIPS-0967-063-2014-T-4-1966Nov.pdf>
<http://www.r-390a.net/NAVSHIPS-0967-063-2031-T-1A-1964Nov30.pdf>
<http://www.r-390a.net/NAVSHIPS-93053-T-1.pdf>
<http://www.r-390a.net/NAVSHIPS-0967-063-2110-FC6-1966.pdf>
<http://www.r-390a.net/TM11-5820-358-10-1961Jan16.pdf>
<http://www.r-390a.net/TM11-5820-358-10-C2-1965Jan15.pdf>
<http://www.r-390a.net/TM11-5820-358-20P-19720125.pdf>
Enjoy! Al

From jlkolb@cts.com Sun Oct 6 02:49:45 2002
Subject: [R-390] A "baby" R-390A

wrote: > A gentleman just dropped off an R-648/ARR41 receiver for repair. This > aircraft receiver appears to be very similar to out "pets", the R-390A. > But it is much lighter, smaller and has a somewhat different > layout/circuit scheme.

>

> He said it has poor audio on AM and expressed concern that he "hoped" it > wasn't the 6kHz Crystal filter.

Well, it's a Collins mechanical filter, not a crystal filter. I wouldn't suspect the filter is the problem unless it has a very high insertion loss. If the signal levels are the same in AM mode and CW/FSK (1.4 kHz filter, it's probably OK, although the parts unit I once bought had both filters bad). I can supply you with a replacement filter (F500Y60, smaller Y case filter) if you should turn out to need it.

Leaky coupling caps in the audio stage would be most likely if the signal sounds distorted rather than weak.

> > Anybody out there worked on these? Does it have any "pitfalls" or other > things that I should be aware of before "digging in"?

>

If running with the dynamotor power supply, you'll need 27.5V a 3A if above 32 deg F, or 5.8A if below. Starting surge of 20A. Too low a primary supply could cause problems, I suppose.

If the dynamotor was replaced with an internal homebrew supply you might check out the entire conversion, as these often involved rewiring the filament string for 6.3 or 12.V v transformer windings.

I have a rather poor manual copy here if the owner didn't supply one and you can't find one posted on line (NAVAIR 16-30ARR41-502) John

From jlkolb@cts.com Sun Oct 6 02:55:27 2002

Subject: [R-390] Various R390 issues

wrote: > > 4. What kind of connectors are used on the coax cables between modules? > > Looks like an anemic BNC (grin). Reason I ask is that the insulation has > > cracked on a couple of the coax cables going to the IF assembly, and I see > > some repair work in the future (sigh).

Believe they are called "MB" connectors. I've got a number of adapters here with a straight "MB" connector on one end, a couple of inches of coax, and a male BNC on the other. \$2.00 each + postage. The straight MB's should recycle easily. The right angle MB's are more difficult as the end cap has to be unsoldered. John

From courir26@yahoo.com Sun Oct 6 13:46:16 2002

Subject: [R-390] Additional Documents on tghe FAQ site

Al, It was good of you to go to all this trouble. Thanks Tom

From DCrespy@aol.com Sun Oct 6 14:41:39 2002

Subject: [R-390] Re: Various R390 issues

Dave, I agree with all of Bill's (AB6MT) comments and would add a few...:

> 1. I have seen many of you write up the use of Orange Drop caps to replace > the Vitamin Q, etc., paper stuff.

I would replace just the black (brown) beauties and the dc blocking cap for the mechanical filters. Like Bill, I also have had excellent luck with the vitamin Q caps. 3 Radios, no failures. Like my Dad always told me (and I never listened), "If it isn't broken don't fix it". Be careful on the new radial lead caps, as some of them (body of the cap) are easily damaged with a soldering iron.

> 2. I have a case of sticking meters. They are original equipment. I have > read that the original meters have radioactive material in them.

I have opened these kind of meters (radioactive) twice. After thinking it over, I never will again. I can't say how big the health risk (cancer) is, but is it really worth the \$50 you're saving?

> 3. Other than cosmetics, is there any particular reason why I should rebuild > the large electrolytics?

Look for signs of leakage or residue around the gasket at the base of the plug in cap. If it is clean there, the cap is probably good. On the plug in assembly, I did one of my radios this way. Works well. Be carefull that you get plug-ins that will sit square to the chassis. Most relay shells do not. To Bill's point, you could just wire them to an octal plug or old tube base and shink wrap (or not) the assembly! One other health note. On radios of this vintage, I don't like opening anything with oil in it (PCBs). Have fun. 73 Harry KG5LO

From dsmaples@comcast.net Sun Oct 6 22:38:25 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A meters

All: I thought Harry's note on the residual radioactivity of the meters was certainly useful to know.

He mentioned a \$50 cost-savings figure. Has someone made replacement meters for the R-390A in that price range? If so, who is the company? As much of a pain in the neck a typical meter repair job is (and with such little guarantee of success in the end), \$50 is not anywhere near too much to pay to just replace the things.

Presuming that there is NOT an easily-obtained replacement, I'm sitting here thinking about how to disassemble, clean, and reassemble the meters without letting any particulate matter loose. This sounds just like asbestos removal to me, and just about as much fun as a dental drill with no anesthetic!

Thoughts run toward disassembling the meters in a bowl of Freon-TF or similar degreaser, cleaning out the movements, and then sealing up the debris in a suitable container and getting rid of it. Boy, that's a lot of work, and how do I deal with trying to find a place that will handle disposal of potentially radioactive waste (mebbe the local radiology or nuclear medicine department at the hospital)?

I've got a set of three Harris URC-94 SSB transceivers that use basically the same meter style. Since those are illuminated (and about 20 years newer) I suspect they DON'T have the same problems, but one never knows (sigh).

Ah, well, when I was a kid I was the happy recipient of a number of science kits, courtesy of Mom and Dad. One of them had to do with a cloud chamber and radioactivity, and there was a bag of what I believe was pitchblende included in the kit, as well as some film. I never built the cloud chamber, but did manage to leave the bad of pitchblende on top of the film, and as I recall it got well and truly fogged. I have probably had more radioactivity from that than I will ever get from the R-390A meters... Dave Maples, WB4FUR

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Mon Oct 7 15:45:04 2002
Subject: [R-390] Dry Battery Source

Friends,

Had a few nice letters on this, including one that reminded me that it may be possible for a given appl. to put together your own set-up..In other words combine cells from diff. sources to obtain the value you need...I wonder if others might commen. Even tho' the 390 doesn't need them, some of the mil units some are interested in do. The other 2 notes mentioned sources I didn't know...I will pass it on..and use the info myself..Thanks very much.

To answer couple Q, I DON'T yet have my 390 going.. I got started on several other things, but have it sitting on a table, and will order some tubes, and get busy soon..(I hope)

Sorry to be off sub. again..But after all, the meters I am trying to give away use big "B" Batterys as they are VTVM units, and they are operational right now, (but for how long?).The batts are pretty weak..Of course for the bench, you could convert the power supply yourself, I suppose...All of which reminds me to repeat, I DO have another VTVM from Navy Base that I want to give away...(One is gone, and the sig. gen. is gone)..Will have a few other items soon..As these items are useful to you techs. in working on 390 radios, I don't think thats of sub. too far.. Regards, John

From r.tetrault@attbi.com Mon Oct 7 16:45:57 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A meters

I passed a physics exam by using one of those bags of pitchblend as a pillow. Bob

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Mon Oct 7 15:17:25 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390 and '390As for sale seen today at Hopkinton

Alex -

Wonder if we brushed shoulders? I arrived Saturday morning at around 8AM (to avoid all of those 'good deals'), saw John from the list later in the day and hung around with Mike Crestohl for part of the day. Saw George Rancourt and his nifty display of european tube gear, including one of the Russian BC-348 copies. Missed you and Bruce Howes, saw Gary Brown yammering with someone behind his vehicle so I didn't interrupt. When I came back later, he was gone. Mike saw a nice SP-600 for \$100 Friday night but passed on it, and I pointed a friend to a nice 75A-4, 270G and 310B - not sure if he bought it, but the price was good. I brought along my friend from oz so she could see that I'm not the only person with this affliction, now she thinks most Yanks are just odd. Might've been some of the AMers that gave her that impression? She did like Dale's jeep complete with the operating '392 and '195 in back.

I saw one R-390A for \$400 (an OT had it up on one of the side hill paths), and the 'nice' (must've been for \$800) R-390. It was still on the tailgate when we left later. George made a good offer for it, but I'm guessing the seller was too fond of it to let it go.

Also saw an SX-115 that supposedly sold for \$2000, but the cabinet was painted gray. I know Halli used gray on some of their earlier rigs, but I've never seen a '115 that wasn't black and silver. Seller also had another Halli receiver with a big price tag which he took home with him.

All and all it was a great day Saturday despite the wx forecast. Was raining when I woke up at 6, but it stopped and cleared before we arrived there at 8, and the rest of the day was sunny and 75-80°. I managed to buy a pair of Eimac 75th modulator tubes for one of my transmitters with sockets for a whopping \$75 and a nifty old tube-type 11 mtr rig that was just too cheap to resist for \$10. A friend had an old wooden Westinghouse RA cabinet that he tried to give me but I managed to trade a \$5 bill for it.

Was surprised there weren't more R-390s this year, didn't see any RA-17s either. Maybe next spring we should plan on a meeting place and time Friday night and Saturday sometime. It would be good to meet you and whoever else shows up from the list. I wonder if Bob Camp was there? 73 de Todd/'Boomer'
KA1KAQ AI2Q Alex wrote:

From kc8opp@yahoo.com Mon Oct 7 21:32:09 2002
Subject: [R-390] Non A Front Panel

Fellow R-390 drivers, I picked up another R-390 last month at a local ham fest, was listed as a parts unit. The owner indicated that it had a bad RF deck. Well all the parts were there, including the meters and ID tag, plus all the tubes.

As luck would have it, the bad RF deck was a burnt resistor and a mis-aligned band switch. There are other minor problems but now the radio plays and will be on the bench this winter for a complete going through.

The big problem is the extra hole in the front panel. It would seem that a previous owner installed an on/off switch for something. The switch is gone but the hole remains.

Anyone out there have an extra Non-A front panel they would consider parting with? Does not need to be refinished, I can do that. But would like it to be engraved and straight without any extra holes.

Any suggestions for plan "B"? I have thought about having a machine shop mill the hole round and press a plug in. Not really interested in filling the hole with putty or things related.

Thanks for your time and let me know what you may have, even a real "parts" rig. 73's Roger KC8OPP

From cbscott@ingr.com Mon Oct 7 21:39:54 2002
Subject: [R-390] Non A Front Panel

Roger, You might consider having a plug of a slightly smaller diameter than the hole made of the same thickness aluminum sheet and then having it MIG-welded front and back. You could then smooth the welds and fill any tiny pitting with JBWeld or some other filler. It might be a more mechanically solid plan than a pressed-in plug in such a thing panel. It would not be easy, but it would be solid. I think this would require a pretty experienced welder as you could potentially warp the panel if you're not careful. Just a thought, Barry - N4BUQ

From scott" <polaralined@earthlink.net Mon Oct 7 22:53:21 2002
Subject: [R-390] Non A Front Panel

You in the NJ area? I can weld it for you. If not, find a shop that has TIG welding capability. They can fill the hole right in with new material. You need a competent welder though, the panel will warp easily if an idiot trys to weld it. Scott

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Tue Oct 8 00:35:41 2002
Subject: [R-390] Non A Front Panel

Hi Roger and list: I know you indicated that you're not interested in filling the hole with putty or things related, but considering the alternative (welding, etc.) I dunno ...

I've used products like plastic aluminum (Duro) with success. Once you fill it, allow to cure, and sand looks nearly like a metal fillin because that's what it is (aluminum powder with a binder). After refinishing, which is what you plan anyway, the paint makes it disappear altogether. You'll find that

some spare panels need filling anyway for nicks and spot corrosion. That type of detailing is best done with pink body filler. So, unless you find a near perfect replacement, you may well end up with more "plastic" than using Plastic Aluminum or JB Weld on what you have.

Of course, the other alternative is to make use of the hole and install something there a do-nothing switch for future use, an extra jack maybe to connect a counter to the PTO for checking calibration, diode load connection, one of those round snap-in caps used to seal up extra holes, etc. (Temperature probe?)

On the other hand, it's convenient to have a spare panel to refinish while keeping your R-390 intact until the newly refinished one is fully baked, cured and ready to install at your convenience, rather than have the radio "faceless" for the duration. (I can rationalize nearly anything ;-) Barry

From ham@cq.nu Tue Oct 8 02:52:00 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390 and '390As for sale seen today at Hopkinton

Hi,

Well since you asked -

I showed up Thursday at about 6 PM to meet up with the other half of our little expedition at the parking lot. As I pulled up the cell phone went off and the other half of the group pulled out for the night. Given that the tarps and about 1/3 of the gear were packed in his load this made things a little weird. The other item was that he had the RV and I didn't. Needless to say this caused a rapid change in plans. I returned at 6 AM Friday and rolled in at 9. I got mobbed as I opened up the trailer and it was about 3 PM before I had enough of a break to do anything at all. I didn't notice much gear on the route to and from the head

It rained on and off most of the day Friday and by the end of the day it had been raining for about 4 hours straight. I had sold out of everything I brought with me and decided to pack it in. I never did get a chance to see much of what was there Pretty strange even for me at a hamfest Bob Camp
KB8TQ

From jonandvalerieoldenburg@worldnet.att.net Tue Oct 8 04:06:40 2002
Subject: [R-390] Non A Front Panel

> The big problem is the extra hole in the front panel.

If the hole is next to the BFO knob it's probably from The Navy Diode output jack mod they did to facilitate quick alignment checks for rack mounted units. If you really wish to fill it go to the local hardware store and get some aluminum repair rods from the welding supply area. They melt using a standard propane torch. back the panel with a steel plate & heat the area & fill it in. After filling it down use auto body putty to fill in the scratches. I have used the same method with 80/20 lead solder to fill holes in steel panels (Hammarund Super Pro !) with good results also. Jon AB9AH

From tgrieco@optonline.net Tue Oct 8 11:31:18 2002
Subject: [R-390] HP-606B

I am looking to purchase a H.P. 606B SIGNAL GENERATOR with manual .It must be in great shape and include operators manual. Please contact me here or e-mail days to tommysfitness@snet.net or better yet a call to work is fine 1-800-499-3571 and ask to speak to Tim. Thank you k1syn

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Tue Oct 8 15:12:15 2002
Subject: [R-390] r-390 list

Friends, Have truly enjoyed the last several issues..This is a great place to be.

A Q: Where on the net, could a person keep up w/ upcoming hmfests? (Maybe I should just spend more time on the bands...)

A comment: The answers on dry batt. sources were ex. and I thank all who answered. My Best Regards, John

From anchor@ec.rr.com Tue Oct 8 16:13:35 2002
Subject: [R-390] r-390 list

Hi,
Go to: <<http://www.arrl.org>> and click on "hamfest", then you can search by state, section, date, etc, to your heart's content. They're almost all there, except maybe some small ones that don't let ARRL know about themselves. They don't have to be ARRL associated, etc. 73,AI, W8UT

From Michael.Studer@Sun.COM Tue Oct 8 21:31:52 2002
Subject: [R-390] Anyone else have R-390 case besides me?

I am new to this list. Here's my list of "stuff".

I have 3 R-390a's. I have one that works great. One that works great but needs a coupling for the vfo if I plan to tune it. And one is crap.

I think mine is a bit unusual since I have an actual R-390 case for it. Yes indeed, they do/did make them. It holds a single R-390 and is louvered all over the place. Maybe cause it gets HOT? hehe. It also has shock mounts on the bottom. Looks great. If there is interest I can take picture of it and post it. I have all the various original manuals for the R-390A too.

It is nice to see people still out there using these fine rigs. Mike AB6CV

From theprof@texoma.net Tue Oct 8 23:29:37 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390A meters

Just got back from the cardilogist. The discussion of the meters prompted me to grab the Bicon (calibrated) survey meter and check myself after getting the thorium injections for testing. I read somewhere around 20 mR/h. I guess now I am an offical glow-in-the-dark boatanchor collector :) 73 de Richard, W5SRB

From barry@hausernet.com Tue Oct 8 23:42:58 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390A meters

I got you beat Richard. Shortly after I was born, they discovered I had an enlarged thyroid. Treatment: A radium amulet probably a side line of the meter dial factory. Highly effective the thyroid shrunk down to size.

However, they later learned that enlarged thyroid glands were common in infants and simply fixed themselves 99% of the time. Miracles of modern medical science. Barry

From Llgpt@aol.com Wed Oct 9 00:25:54 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390A meters

writes: << I got you beat Richard. Shortly after I was born, they discovered I had an enlarged thyroid. Treatment: A radium amulet probably a side line of the meter dial factory. Highly effective the thyroid shrunk down to size.

So, those "glow in the dark hands" make it easier to tune that R-390A in a dark room? Les

From laffitte@prtc.net Wed Oct 9 11:42:35 2002
Subject: [R-390] OS8-U

Hi gents, Does anyone has an extra OS-8U oscilloscope working or not (as long as it is complete and the CRT is ok)? Many thanks and 73s, Guido Santacana KP4FAR

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Wed Oct 9 17:57:23 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390A meters

wrote: writes: >> << I got you beat Richard. Shortly after I was born, they discovered I had an enlarged thyroid. Treatment: A radium amulet probably a side line of the meter dial factory. Highly effective the thyroid shrunk down to size.

>

> So, those "glow in the dark hands" make it easier to tune that R-390A in a dark room?> Les

See Dr. Les, I was just thinking that everyone who installed the newer 'no-glow' meters would also need a Barry for illumination purposes... Boomer, KA1KAQ

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Wed Oct 9 18:08:58 2002
Subject: [R-390] Anyone else have R-390 case besides me?

I've seen a couple of these, Mike. I know of one list member here in the northeast who has one, too - complete with mounts and R-390 attached. de Todd/'Boomer' KA1KAQ

From bill.riches@verizon.net Wed Oct 9 18:21:13 2002
Subject: [R-390] Anyone else have R-390 case besides me?

A bunch of cases were made for Desert Storm. The ones that did not make it to the desert were snapped up by Mac McCullough in Texas and he resold them for around \$300.00. New with original packing - a piece of art - well worth it and makes the radio look very impressive - mine is in the living room and no

static!! 73, Bill, WA2DVU

From Damon Raphael" <w7md@arrl.net Wed Oct 9 18:36:32 2002
Subject: [R-390] Anyone else have R-390 case besides me?

I have 2 of these cases from Mac McCullough, one each for my R-390 and R-390A. They are brand new and beautiful. Dave Medley just did a complete makeover on the R-390 and the results are spectacular; both cosmetically and functionally. Damon Raphael, W7MD Tucson AZ

From hankarn@pacbell.net Wed Oct 9 20:33:36 2002
Subject: [R-390] Anyone else have R-390 case besides me?

I have 4 of the cases. I also have new tags for them with no S/N available. Hank KN6DI Cases are not for sale.

From pjdefayette@earthlink.net Wed Oct 9 21:07:47 2002
Subject: [R-390] Anyone else have R-390 case besides me?

I also have two of Mac's beautiful cabinets. One of them is original semi-gloss spook black. When I get the time, I'll repaint the front panel of my R-390 in its likeness. That will look sharp with nice white lettering! Regards all, Paul Durham, NC

From pbigelow@us.ibm.com Wed Oct 9 21:46:13 2002
Subject: [R-390] Anyone else have R-390 case besides me?

Hello, I have a R-390a case and it's incurable! Been afflicted for years! :-) 73's Paul Bigelow

From jordana@nucleus.com Wed Oct 9 21:50:36 2002
Subject: [R-390] Anyone else have R-390 case besides me?

Well , I have the Government Issue Table top case... does that count..? It's a Canadian Gov't issue case BTW.... 73 de Jordan...

From eldim@worldnet.att.net Wed Oct 9 22:43:48 2002
Subject: [R-390] Anyone else have R-390 case besides me?

I think its time that we take some pictures of these lovely "CASE'S" with their Heritge INSERTS and put them out on the net for all to see, admire, and DROOL OVER! 73, Glen Galati KA7BOJ

From rodney_bunt@yahoo.com Thu Oct 10 01:20:09 2002
Subject: [R-390] [Hammarlund] hammarlund byrd expedition

Mike,

I have copies (electronic) of the "Collins Signal". One covers the Byrd Expedition of 1934, the other one has a picture of a QSL card for Art Collins W9CXX from W6DZH California. Check out the ergonomic operator position, very comfortable (NOT), and what looks like a Hammarlund Super Pro. The handles and the 'S' meter are a give away here.

Don't have any pictures of the Byrd Expedition Receivers although, I do have a copy of his journal "Little America", and it has some pictures of the "Radio Men" and their Collins equipment.

Follow these links

<http://www.radioglowbug.com/technical/Signal03-33.pdf>

and

<http://www.radioglowbug.com/technical/Signal12-34.pdf>

Regards, Rodney VK2KTZ

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Thu Oct 10 14:14:29 2002
Subject: [R-390] Anyone else have R-390 case besides me?

Those were R-390A cases Rich, for the 'A' model. Mike was referring to the original R-390 case. Although very similar, the R-390 and the later cost-reduced version are different radios, hence the addition of the 'A' designation. Many users tend to refer to them generically as the R-390, some even go so far as to rename the R-390 as the "non-A", but if you check the tags and manuals, you'll never see the term 'non-A' used. Only R-390 and R-390A.

I'd have to guess that the original R-390 cabinets aren't as plentiful as the later 'A' models. I have seen a few(2-3) in recent years, but not many. As Mike mentioned, unlike the cabinet for the 'A' model, the R-390 cabinets are covered with louvers to help remove the excess heat. Can't imagine what would happen if you stuck an R-390 into a cabinet designed for the 'A' and used it for any length of time. Wonder how long before tubes started to crap out or transformers heated up and shorted? (no, this isn't a request for a test!). 73 de Todd/'Boomer' KA1KAQ

From pha@pdq.com Thu Oct 10 14:57:24 2002
Subject: [R-390] Anyone else have R-390 case besides me?

I'm confused... Mac was selling CY-979A cases, which are louvered (see <<http://www.pdq.com/boatanchors/cy-979a>>), have shock mounts, and are intended in part for vehicle and other mobile applications. There is another case, a CY-917, that I thought was a lighter weight table top case for the R-390 series and SP-600. I looked in my archives, and see a note from Tom N50FF about a case he has <<http://www.geocities.com/courir26/Ed390A.jpg>> which he says is not a CY-917, but appears to be made for the 390.

Of course there are other sources for cabinets that will hold the R-390 radios, and I have several of these as well (I think one is a Bud, another may be a Heathkit cabinet). So what case are we talking about? A CY-979 (is there one of these?), a CY-979A, a CY-917, or something else? Thanks, Paul

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Thu Oct 10 15:23:06 2002

Subject: [R-390] Anyone else have R-390 case besides me?

I can't quote the nomenclature off the top of my head Paul, so I'm afraid I won't be able to clarify further. The second cabinet link you listed looks like the Imperial cabinets, these are the ones I'm most familiar with for the R-390. I was sure I'd seen others similar to the CY-979A also without louvers with the R-390A installed. Maybe I imagined it? Either way, I think the two links you posted illustrate the differences between the R-390 and the 'A' cabinets, with the 'A' being more squared off and the R-390 cabinet having the nice, rounded corners and more louvers. I'd be pleased to find one of each, but I'd settle for either one.

You're right about the 'other cabinets' part. The problem with using any old cabinet is a lot like the same conflict you get trying to use a regular Collins 75A-2 or -3 receiver cabinet for a 51J/R-388. You need a much larger rear opening to accomodate the different chassis requirements for that wonderful mechanical tuning system. I have my spook R-390A project in an old Imperial cabinet similar to the R-390 cabinet, but instead of louvers it has a mesh top. The rear panel is open to accept the the R-390 or A just fine, too.

Any way you look at it, R-390 or R-390A, or even R-388 cabinets aren't lying around on every street corner. The vast majority seem to have been rack-mounted, if surviving photographs are any clue. Thanks for posting the links, Paul - de Todd/'Boomer' KA1KAQ

From nryan@intrex.net Thu Oct 10 17:13:07 2002
Subject: [R-390] Anyone else have R-390 case besides me?

Hello, group,

Notice the slightly larger size of this cabinet <<http://www.geocities.com/courir26/Ed390A.jpg>>. It has more louvers, to be sure, but also more space inside that likely promotes faster convection.

This cabinet <<http://www.pdq.com/boatanchors/cy-979a/cy-979a.jpg>> is identical to the ones Mac sold. Its tag is marked CY-979A.

If an R-390 (non-A) in a CY-979A is operating at the normally higher than nominal 115 VAC, heat build-up likely will stress components a bit even though the radio is designed to operate at voltages 10 percent higher or lower.

My Mac CY-979A cabinet has an R-390A running at just over 110 VAC by means of a Variac. Cabinet feels cozy warm and all is well inside. Elapsed time meter shows 735 hours since I rebuilt the receiver.

Would love to find one of those earlier version cabinets for an R-390 (non-A). 73 de Norman
KG4SWM

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Thu Oct 10 18:15:42 2002
Subject: [R-390] Anyone else have R-390 case besides me?

wrote: > Notice the slightly larger size of this cabinet >
<<http://www.geocities.com/courir26/Ed390A.jpg>>.

That's what I was eluding to earlier, Norman. The larger size of the R-390 cabinet and additional louvers should be a big clue as to heat build up(which any R-390 owner is well-aware of). Whereas the 'A' model has less heat to start with and would be fine in the smaller, 'less-louvered' cabinet. But if you put

an R-390 into a cabinet made for the 'A', you could be baking your tubes, transformers, and all components over time really.

Luckily the 'A' is far more common than the original R-390, so hopefully this situation won't arise too often. Unfortunately though, cabinets for the 'A' seem more plentiful as well, which might encourage an R-390 owner to install this radio into what might amount to an oven.

Now, one must wonder about the tag numbers on these cabinets and what they relate to, if anything particular. It sure would be amusing to find that the larger cabinet was originally tagged CY-979 and fits the R-390, while the CY-979A was made for the later 'A' model.

Any cabinet authorities lurking out there? Boomer, KA1KAQ

From Thu Oct 10 18:54:37 2002
Subject: [R-390] Anyone else have R-390 case besides me?

wrote: > unlike the cabinet for the 'A' model, the R-390 cabinets are covered >with louvers to help remove the excess heat.

Tod and others:

My CY-979 has louvers, but only TWO rows of them on top. The louvers on the side extend from the bottom to only part way up.

I have a picture showing FOUR rows of louvers on a similar cabinet - the filename is: cy-979not-Ed390A.jpg It shows four rows of louvers on the top, and three rows of louvers on the side which go from bottom to top of the cabinet.

I suppose someone knows the designations of the (presumably) older, four-row-louvered cabinet. I don't. Roy

From courir26@yahoo.com Thu Oct 10 19:05:01 2002
Subject: [R-390] Anyone else have R-390 case besides me?

Could your cabinet be the CY-979 (non A) ? I'd like to see a photo.

The Maccabinets were made by Laboy Industries of Camden. Some of the radio makers plus Steelcase also made the CY-979A (I have a list at home and can post it later). 73 Tom N5OFF

From k06bb@elite.net Thu Oct 10 19:10:53 2002
Subject: [R-390] Anyone else have R-390 case besides me?

Hi.

First: Yes I'm back at the old email address of k06bb@elite.net (that's a "zero" not an "Oh"). Juno proved unreliable to me.

With all this talk of cases, I wonder what the effect of leaving the covers on an R-390a during operation

are? Reason I ask is I have a R-390a WITH the factory covers. I have a small 24V fan (running slower on 12VDC) "stuck onto" the side of the receiver right next to the rectifier tubes blowing across the tubes and transformer. This really does seem to keep the overall receiver significantly cooler in operation. I presume because the heat is "blown out" the other side of the receiver across the audio module rather than rising up through the radio.

ALSO, the top cover is just sitting on top of the receiver and is removed when the radio is in operation. Other than dust settling in the radio while it is in operation, anyone else think this is worthwhile or just "overkill"? (Yes, the top cover is louvered). 73 de Phil KO6BB

From chacuff@cableone.net Thu Oct 10 20:12:21 2002
Subject: Lili, was Re: [R-390] RF Deck: 8-16 mHz synchronization question

Greetings,

I just returned from 5 days spent supporting the restoration of the electrical power distribution systems in South LA. Stayed in Lafayette and worked in smaller towns to the north where there was much damage. (Ville Platte area)

Had dinner one night at a very interesting place in Lafayette....off W. Pinhook...true South LA style cooking...Zydao band and the works...Great food! Love that Boudin! (unique sausage)

Small utility had 150,000 of it's 230,000 customers in the dark.....when we left yesterday less than 500 were down! Good trip...65 hours overtime in 5 days....time to sleep now! Cecil Acuff

From andywilliams@pobox.com Fri Oct 11 00:05:52 2002
Subject: [R-390] Anyone else have R-390 case besides me?

Anyone have Mac's email? I'm trying to find out what happened to a cabinet I ordered but didn't receive. Andy

From courir26@yahoo.com Fri Oct 11 01:40:55 2002
Subject: [R-390] Makers of CY-979A Cabinets

Gentlemen?

These are the makers of CY-979A cabinets which I've recorded. If anybody has one that is not listed here (Les, I do not want to hear about your Max Factor cabinet) let me know.

I've also seen a contract for a Collins built CY-917 under the same order as the first 389 and 390A.

CY-979A Makers
Stromberg-Carlson, Division of General Dynamics, Rochester, New York
Steelcase
Teller Industries
Laboy J Industries, Camden (the Mac-cabinets)
Crosley Div. of AVCO MFG. Corp.
Andrews Inc, Philadelphia

Taffet Electronics (owned by W2ERJ, Milt Taffet)
Barker and Williamson
Daystrom

73 Tom N5OFF

From Llgpt@aol.com Fri Oct 11 01:50:30 2002
Subject: [R-390] Makers of CY-979A Cabinets

writes: << Gentlemen? These are the makers of CY-979A cabinets which I've recorded. If anybody has one that is not listed here (Les, I do not want to hear about your Max Factor cabinet) let me know.

You mean the bright exotic pearlescent pink one? Les

From w4net@alltel.net Fri Oct 11 02:27:36 2002
Subject: [R-390] Makers of CY-979A Cabinets

Tom,

I have a CY-979A Cabinet that my 1956 contract Motorola R390A came in. It has the CY-979A stencilled on the top toward the front between the two rows of loovers. It does not have any order number or Manufacturer any where. Suppose it was a "Depot Dog" cabinet? 73 John W4NET

From Fri Oct 11 04:33:39 2002
Subject: [R-390] Makers of CY-979A Cabinets

wrote: > (Les, I do not want to hear about your Max Factor >cabinet) >73 Tom N5OFF
>You mean the bright exotic pearlescent pink one?

LES! You are holding out on us.. All I heard about is the baby blue one with soft mauve highlights. Roy

From myyoung76@bellsouth.net Fri Oct 11 04:54:55 2002
Subject: [R-390] R390 cabinets

Oooooh!! I want to see both!! Mikey

From courir26@yahoo.com Thu Oct 10 18:48:24 2002
Subject: [R-390] Anyone else have R-390 case besides me?

Oaul,

The case shown (2nd pic) is definately made for the 390A as it has the little male fitting for the holes on the back of the 390A. It has little feet for a table top (i.e. not a vehicle case). It is made of aluminum. I've never seen nomenclature on this. It came out of the EAC plant. 73 Tom N5OFF

From alundy8@earthlink.net Fri Oct 11 02:08:10 2002

Subject: [R-390] R-390A w/case / OS-8 scope

I'm new to this wonderful list due to a neighbor calling up three weeks ago saying he was moving and wanted to give away an R-390A and a Collins 75A-2. I took them not knowing anything about the R-390A (it was built by Motorola on contract 363-PH-54, and is serial no. 697). Anyhow the R390-A has a very heavy aluminum case covered with louvers and painted a somewhat lighter gray than the front panel. It does not have shock mounts on the bottom but possibly did originally. He told me that this particular receiver came off the aircraft carrier Enterprise. I did power it up briefly and got noise but no signals although turning the antenna trimmer created noise and the noise level went up & down with both the RF and AF gain controls. I want to replace some of the capacitors before I put power on again. It did come with three spare 3TF7 tubes and one 6BA6W. Alas it may be months before I get back to working on it as I have too many other projects going.

I am overwhelmed with all the good info available on this list. I did download and print out the entire 21st Century R-390A Technical Reference. What a wonderful document.

Guido:

I have a small military oscilloscope with a clamp-on cover which does not seem to have a nameplate but the cover is stamped OS-8C/U. The controls are on top, the CRT is on a small angled panel at the front along with position, focus, and intensity controls. The vertical section of the front panel has two fuses and a pilot light. It operates on 120 VAC with storage for the cord on the right side. On the back are direct screw inputs to the horizontal and vertical deflection as well as outputs from the horizontal and vertical amplifiers. The amplifiers appear to be uncalibrated and I suspect the vertical bandpass is well under 1 MHz but it does go to DC at the low end on a fixed gain setting. The seven position coarse sweep control is calibrated in Hz rather than time and the maximum frequency is 50 KHz. Is this what you're looking for? I acquired it sometime prior to 1960 when I was still active as a ham and have hardly used it. I seem to recall trying to use it ~5years ago and not getting a beam but I pulled it off the shelf and plugged it in today and got beam right away. Alas there appears to be noise in the amplifiers so I can't get a smooth trace-actually it looks like there's a smooth trace and it then doubles back on itself about halfway with noise. Maybe just problems in the blanking circuit. I suspect it needs to have some capacitors replaced at the very least but the CRT seems OK and the physical appearance is pretty good. If you're interested I can photograph it and email the picture. You can reply off list. Arvid
alundy8@earthlink.net

From mc@sover.net Fri Oct 11 11:35:38 2002

Subject: [R-390] HOSSTRADERS - Is It Just a Memory?

I'm sure there are very few hams and electronic hobbyists within 300 miles of Southern New Hampshire who have never been to the Hosstraders flea market at least once in their lives. Some of us have been going since the mid 1970s and I'm sure that the majority of attendees will say unequivocally that it is the best tailgating swap fest there is - bar none! The original {quot}Hosstraders; Joe Demaso, K1RQG, Bob Tiffany W1GWU and Norm Blake WA1IVB have been running this landmark event every May for over 25 years (and since 1984, in October as well). By their own calculations they have raised over one million dollars to benefit the Shriners Hospitals for sick and injured children in Boston, Springfield and Montreal. Truly an outstanding accomplishment.

There are many of us who have seen Hosstraders grow to a small tailgate flea market in a Seabrook NH parking lot to the magnificent Deerfield Fairgrounds (with an unforgettable side trip to Kingston NH in 1986), to the Rochester Fairgrounds aka {quot}Rainchester{quot} 1993-1999, and most recently in 2000 to the beautiful Hopkinton State Fairgrounds just a short ride up I-89 from Concord NH. The

Hosstraders is more than a flea market - it is a community; a family if you will, with a weekly equipment swap net on 75 meters in addition to the semi-annual get-togethers.

We all have tons of personal memories from many years of going to Hosstraders and loads of great stuff in our ham shacks, work benches or computer rooms to show for it. We've had a whole lot of lot of fun in the process and Hosstraders has become a very important part of our lives - a cultural event we can look forward to through the long hard cold New England winter. It has been a true rite of spring every year and even now that the Fall 2002 Hosstraders is only a day in the past as I write this we are all looking forward to the Spring 2003 event.

But will there be an event next spring or for that matter ever again? This remains to be seen. It has been the Hosstraders custom to print the next years dates on the tickets every year but if you were there last October 4th or 5th and looked at yours you may have wondered why there were no 2003 dates on it. Here's why.

There has not been a contract signed with the Fair Committee for any future events because last May several unknown persons stole three 25 kV power utility step-down transformers, commonly called {quot}Pole Pigs{quot}, from the fairgrounds during the Hosstraders weekend. For those of you unfamiliar with these things, pole pigs are very large and heavy. Two guys in a Dodge Neon couldn't have done this. It would take at least three strong people with a big pick-em-up truck to haul them away. The only use these things have to hams is to reverse connect them and use them for a (very) high power transmitter or amplifier. They have little scrap value and even less resale value because they are all numbered and no power company would touch them.

The three {quot}Hosstraders{quot} announced this news to the assembled crowd at the one o'clock prize drawing and made an appeal for anyone with knowledge or any information about this theft to step forward and help get them back. As it stands there will be no questions asked the matter will be dropped if the transformers are returned. If you know anything about this you may contact any one of the Hosstraders or any of the undersigned and help us get these back to the Fairgrounds as soon as possible. Your identity will not be revealed to anyone else involved. The transformers may be dropped off at several locations and no one will see anything. That will be the end of it.

However if the stolen transformers are not recovered soon the investigation by the authorities will proceed. The owners intend to vigorously prosecute anyone found to be involved in the theft and it is a pretty sure bet that there will be jail time if they are convicted. The Hosstraders have offered to assume financial responsibility for the missing items and pay for them. This is a substantial amount - several thousand dollars that would otherwise go to the Shriners and their hospitals. The other consequence to us all is that there will be no future contracts signed for the Hopkinton Fairgrounds and it is a sure bet that no other such facility will sign one either. This would mean the end of Hosstraders!

We are personally outraged by this theft and the prospect of not having the Hosstraders events to look forward to in the future. We want to help get this matter resolved to everyone's satisfaction as soon as possible so plans for May and October 2003 can proceed. We want to help Norm, Joe and Bob raise a second million for the hospitals. We want more Hosstraders, more stuff, more good times and more memories!

Of course we are hoping that someone will step forward and help get the transformers back and as mentioned we will act as intermediaries. We can guarantee your anonymity and assure you that no questions will be asked. For the rest of you please do not speculate or point fingers at anyone or any particular groups of hams. It will not solve anything and only serve to alienate and divide us at a time when we must all stand together to save our Hosstraders. It has been suggested that publicizing this

unfortunate incident will reflect poorly on amateur radio but we do not feel that it is so. We should not nor cannot assume legal responsibility for the acts of a few criminal individuals. Remember, the Hosstraders is a public event and anyone with the price of admission is eligible to enter. There is no hard evidence that we know of as to exactly when these items disappeared or that the persons who stole these items were attending the flea market or are licensed hams, although practically speaking, who else would have any use for them?

Nonetheless, we need to take the practical responsibility here and see to it that this incident is quickly resolved to the satisfaction of the Fair Committee and the Hosstraders organizers to ensure that the event does not die due to the criminal and irresponsible acts of a small group of individuals. It is conceivable that in the five months that has elapsed these transformers have been disassembled or even disposed of and are simply not available for return. If for whatever reason they do not surface within a reasonable time, say the end of October, we would like to recommend the following course of action Suitable and equivalent replacements be located, purchased and offered to the Fairgrounds Committee requesting them to sign the 2003 contract thus allowing us to continue holding the event at Hopkinton. We figure that three new custom-made replacements can be purchased for about \$1,000.00 apiece from a manufacturer in the Midwest. Then next May and October if necessary, have a {quot}drop bucket{quot} for people to contribute to the cost of purchasing the replacements. As an alternative a surcharge be added to the gate fees until the cost has been recovered with any overage going to the Shriners. Knowing the Hosstraders community as we do we have no doubt that this sum will be quickly and cheerfully raised.

It would gall us to have to pay for what the thieves stole last May but we all must collectively bear the financial responsibility and not permit the Shriners Hospitals to lose out which they would in the final analysis. A million bucks buys a lot of equipment which can save lives and alleviate suffering of sick and injured children and we'd like to see this outstanding act of benevolence on the part of Norm, Joe and Bob and everyone else involved in this wonderful happening that has become a very important part of our lives to continue to the two or even three million dollar level. We just cannot and will not allow three or four common thieves to take this away from us.

Signed
Michael Crestohl, W1RC
mc@sover.net
(802) 296-5050
PO Box 511
Hartford VT 05047-0511

Michael N Raisbeck, K1TWF
k1twf@arrl.org
(978) 250-1235
85 High Street,
Chelmsford MA 01824

Allen H Weiner, WBCQ The Planet,
wbcq@gwi.net
97 High Street
Kennebunk ME 04043
(207)985-7547

Timothy M Smith, WA1HLR, timtron@hotmail.com

The Hosstraders official Web site is: <http://www.ql.net/k1rqg>. It is the only source for official news

about the Hosstraders and their events.

From courir26@yahoo.com Fri Oct 11 12:20:24 2002
Subject: [R-390] Makers of CY-979A Cabinets

No, the original drawings call for this stenciling. The Maccabinets do not have it for some reason. Yours sounds like the older originals. 73 Tom

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Fri Oct 11 16:04:56 2002
Subject: [R-390] HOSSTRADERS - Is It Just a Memory?

Mike -

Good seeing you Saturday, too bad it was overshadowed by this mess. Keep me in mind if these things suddenly materialize in New England and you need to retrieve them. I'll volunteer my truck and time to the effort. Shouldn't be much more difficult for us than hauling your T-3 home?

I did cross my mind that this could've taken place at some time other than the hamfest - maybe some trailer park or campground owner? Seems more likely that a truck or van and a few parties grabbed them while the gates were open, though.

Best regards to Cynthia and Yettive. Let me know how I can help - ~Boomer

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Fri Oct 11 16:40:03 2002
Subject: [R-390] HOSSTRADERS - Is It Just a Memory?

Sorry about that, post wasn't meant to go out to the list. de Todd/'Boomer' KA1KAQ

From k06bb@elite.net Sat Oct 12 01:01:22 2002
Subject: [R-390] I "Waxed" my R-390A

Hello All. Today I got really ambitious and dug out the car wax that I bought for my boatanchors quite sometime back. It's ReNew liquid that I bought at the Dollar Store and it really works well on those BA's. This bottle has waxed several R-390A's, SP-600's and various Hammarlund receivers over the past few years. (seems like I just can't use it up 8^).

But anyway, the front panel on this R-390a is quite nice and engraved. It was a little dirty when I got it with one small scratch and the usual marks around the panel mounting holes. I had previously cleaned it but the wax really made it "perk up". This panel doesn't have any of the typical "half moons" etc around the tuning controls but I did notice one thing.

After waxing and "vigoressly" (sp?) wiping the polish off I can tell around each knob area on the panel the area where fingers would have rubbed the panel in turning the knob. In other words, not the same "texture" as the rest of the panel. I'm afraid of working the wax in and rubbing it to excess as I don't wish to remove either too much paint or the engraved fillings (which look good and are original).

Think this is best "Left alone" at this point?

Incidentally, Rachel (my XYL) wondered why I didn't use the ReNew on the family wagon? I told her wax wasn't good for stationwagons 8^) 73 de Phil KO6BB

From w9wis@charter.net Sat Oct 12 15:52:13 2002
Subject: [R-390] Another old R-390A pic ! In Canada !

Here is another oldie but goodie I found. Not that clear a pic but... I didn't know our pals to the North used R-390A's ??? I only saw them with Racal receivers...

<http://webpages.charter.net/w9wis/cw/r390acanada.jpg> Mike

From jordana@nucleus.com Sat Oct 12 16:05:08 2002
Subject: [R-390] Another old R-390A pic ! In Canada !

I've heard stories about the dismantling of the DEW line where they'd put 50-60 390s and 390A's , and a few tons of other gear, on a frozen lake, and bet on the date they'd be heavy enough to break through the ice... 390A's were used extensively in the Canadian Diplomatic Corps as well... I have two of them , both '67 EAC's... neither has ever seen a depot... I have seen 51-J's , SP-600s , 390/390As, Racals, etc all surplused from CFB stores..... 73 de Jordan...

From woodrat@citynet.net Sat Oct 12 16:54:13 2002
Subject: [R-390] Silkscreen Front Panels/ Fair Radio R390As

New guy here so am sorry if these have been beat to death.

I am looking for a R390A and want to avoid a non engraved panel. Who/what contract number did the silkscreen panels so I can ask the "right question" of the seller? Ive encountered sellers on Ebay who didnt know what I was asking.

Are the R390As that Fair Radio sells worth buying, or should I try to get one by watching the list?
Thanks, Larry

From jmerritt2@capecod.net Sat Oct 12 19:18:17 2002
Subject: [R-390] HOSSTRADERS - Is It Just a Memory?

Wait a minute here

What proof is there that anyone affiliated with Hosstraders did this deed?? When EXACTLY was this theft discovered? By whom? Who else had access / opportunity / motive? Who has investigated this? What are their motives / connections ?

Has any of this been checked out, or are we dealing with a "Well. we noticed the loss after Hosstraders, and since the missing stuff was electrical in nature, it must have been the hams"??

Without answers to the above, I, for one , refuse to accept this story on face value. If someone was plotting such a deed, it would make a certain degree of sense to try and shift the blame to the most

"likely suspects" us !

I have been attending this event fairly regularly since 1980, and would hate to see it flounder. Let's put some head-work into this. There IS an answer. Chuck N1LNH

From Llgpt@aol.com Sat Oct 12 19:35:43 2002
Subject: [R-390] cross post

The Hammarlund web site has been recently updated. The history of the Hammarlund Manufacturing Co. has been added. /info/company_history/co_history.pdf Any comments or suggestions are welcomed. Les Locklear

From dave_faria@hotmail.com Sun Oct 13 01:13:53 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390 NON A Problem

GE List. I'm playing with one of the nicest 390's I've seen in a long time and its got a rather irritating problem. It has what I would call a static crash ever so often and I was curious if anyone else has had this problem. I think its a leaky cap. on the RF Deck. I have by-passed the tube stages one at a time on the deck using a tube extender with a filament resistor to to maintain the remaining tubes on the deck. The filaments r in series. I seem to have narrowed it down to the last mixer in the series(V205) using a scope and bypassing. I am seeing fluxuations in both the grid and plate voltage when the crash occurs(Pins 1 and 6). My guess is c-325 off the plate circuit of that tube. Any speculation would be appreciated. Is it typically the plate cap. leaking to ground that would do this? Would a capacitor checker be able to determine if this cap is bad? What is the reason the cap will just not fail?

I've checked all the tubes on a TV2 and thumped em trying to create the problem. I have replaced all the modules except the RF deck and the problem is still there. Sometimes it will run for 30 minutes without a problem and then start. This is a very nice unit and I don't want to recap. unless its necessary. Thanks for ur responses Dave Faria

From billsmith@ispwest.com Sat Oct 12 23:29:15 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390 NON A Problem

Temporarily remove T207 and watch pin 5 of that transformer. Also watch the B+. If pin 5 fluxuates with the static, or if there is any voltage drop between B+ and that pin (across R220), then you have verified a defective C325. If the B+ and pin 5 fluxuate together, then you need to look elsewhere. In fact, C325 should smooth any fluxuation if the problem is elsewhere.

Depending on the quality of the caps in the RF deck, you may only need to replace the one capacitor.

Are you having problems on all bands? I have had to replace mica caps, even very small values, in the R-390 grid circuits in mine. They were leaky and readily detected using a Simpson 260. 73 de Bill, AB6MT, NNN0BIO

From jbrannig@optonline.net Sat Oct 12 23:37:16 2002
Subject: [R-390] cross post

Great article Les,

I really got a kick out of the part about the Western Union call boxes. About 30 years ago I was working on an audit of a firm on Spring Street in NYC. The place was a museum. There was nothing newer than WWI in the place. Placed at intervals along the wall were small yellow boxes with a knob and "Western Union" on them. One of the old-timers told me they had a spring loaded coded wheel in them that sent a message to the local telegraph office. The code (I don't know if it was Morse) told the office the location of the box and an messenger, on roller skates, would show up to pick up the message..... Now, I find out they were made by Hammarlund!!!! Jim

From Llgpt@aol.com Sat Oct 12 23:43:18 2002
Subject: [R-390] cross post

writes: I really got a kick out of the part about the Western Union call boxes.
Thanks Jim,

Now if you had scooped those call boxes up,.....L@@K.....R@RE..... W@W!!!! You coulda been a millionaire!!! Les Locklear

From wb3akd@arrl.net Sun Oct 13 02:22:53 2002
Subject: [R-390] Need 70H-2 PTO

Hello,
I have an R-390 with a big empty spot underneath that I'd like to fill up. Anyone have a PTO looking for a home (adorned with oldham coupler)? 73 Tom WB3AKD

From k06bb@elite.net Sun Oct 13 03:30:56 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A & Q Multiplier

Hello.
Tomorrow a friend of mine is bringing me a Heathkit HD11 Q Multiplier that he bought me at the Turlock auction (I asked him to bid on it for me).

I have a very specific use for this critter. I use my LF modified R-390A to chase weak longwave beacons and VERY frequently there are very strong carriers within the IF passband (but out of the passband of my Audio Filters) that desense the receiver due to the AGC action (I often disable the AGC when that happens). I Use the .1kc IF bandwidth but the slopes aren't steep enough to eliminate the strong adjacent carriers and I "hope" that the Q multiplier will allow me to "Null" said carriers when I wish to.

QUESTION 1: Has anyone here used a Q multiplier on an R-390A receiver? Results?

QUESTION 2: I know you usually connect the Q multiplier to the Mixer tube plate or the plate of an IF amplifier (I've used them on other receivers). So as to NOT disturb the Crystal and Mechanical filter circuits this pretty much leaves the plates of the 2nd IF tube (or later in the circuit). Suggestions for the 'Best' connection point in the receiver AND the best way to bring this connection out of the set without drilling a lot of holes and messing up the "value" of said receiver?? 73 de Phil KO6BB

From billsmith@ispwest.com Sun Oct 13 08:47:35 2002

Subject: [R-390] R-390 NON A Problem

Hi, Dave

I believe you can remove the coil by first removing the two screws on the top of the can. I haven't tried it, but believe all the cans in the RF section are plug-in, and you can simply lift the can after removing the mounting screws.

If not, you can make the same test from the plate pin of the 6C4.

No, don't have any extender cables. You can test quite a bit in the receiver by making use of tube pins and the test points that are available from the top of the chassis.

Of course the radio will not operate correctly with either the tube removed or the transformer out, but if the cap you suspect is bad, it shouldn't matter. I am assuming you will be looking at the circuitry with a scope or at least an analog voltmeter.

I don't think there is any problem removing V205. A number of other tubes are in series, but they will simply not light. They won't have an impact in observing leakage or intermittent noise in C325. If it is bad, it will merrily raise hell all by its lonesome. Of course if it is really intermittent, it will probably notice you are trying to find it and work perfectly while you are testing. 73 de Bill, AB6MT

From dave_faria@hotmail.com Sun Oct 13 21:53:06 2002

Subject: [R-390] Need R-390 non A Mixer Coil

Does anyone have a r-390 non A mixer coil to trade. Coil number "T-207". One thing I was looking at is the 390A mixer coil "T-208". They both connect in the same way to the same tube with the same resistors. Any one know if a 390A coil would possibly work? Or has someone got a 390 non A coil to trade for a 390A coil? Thanks Dave Faria

From mc@sover.net Mon Oct 14 18:35:33 2002

Subject: [R-390] FS: Hewlett Packard HP-410-C VTVM

Hi Gang:

I have an extra HP 410-C VTVM which is the lab-grade VTVM that Collins used on the line and in the engineering department when the S-Line was produced. It is one of the recommended pieces of test equipment in the service manuals. Unfortunately I do not have the AC/RF probe and have priced the meter accordingly at \$75.00 plus shipping. Any interest from the group before I post it you-know-were?? 73, Michael

From mc@sover.net Mon Oct 14 18:30:43 2002

Subject: [R-390] FS: Millen Model 90651 Grid Dip Meter w/ 7 Coils

Hi All:

I have decided to lighten the load a bit more. I have a nice clean Millen model 90651 Grip Dip meter with a; 7 coils in the metal rack . It is very clean and works fine. It comes in a nice plastic case which is not original Millen equipment but it houses the GDO and coils very nicely.

I have decided to sell it because I just don't use it anymore as I have a newer one that is solid state and it is more convenient because it is battery operated. If interested please reply by e-mail to mc@sover.net
73 all, Michael

From jmerritt2@capecod.net Mon Oct 14 20:14:41 2002
Subject: [R-390] FS: Hewlett Packard HP-410-C VTVM

The AC / RF probes for these models were matched to the particular unit during manufacture. Once the probe is lost, it is not possible to plug in just any random probe and have the meter function properly. Over the years, I have seen many 410-Cs for sale without probes, but have Never seen a separate probe for sale anywhere. Wonder where they go? Chuck N1LNH

From cbscott@ingr.com Mon Oct 14 20:13:09 2002
Subject: [R-390] FS: Hewlett Packard HP-410-C VTVM

Is the probe for the 410-C different from the probe for the 410-B? Does the same "this is the correct probe for this meter" rule apply for the 410-B? I didn't think so, but I might be wrong. Barry - N4BUQ

From hbreuer@debitel.net Mon Oct 14 21:07:59 2002
Subject: [R-390] FS: Hewlett Packard HP-410-C VTVM

No Chuck you mixed it up, this is true for the Boonton RF-Millivoltmeters Model 92 or something but does not apply to the HP-410B and HP-410C. Also check the manual, there is nothing written about not to change the probe.

You have to adjust a pot inside the meter to set the filament voltage but that's all you need to do. The voltage is either 5V or 6.3V depending on the tube (2-01C or EA53) used in the probe. I have acquired a separate probe on eBay (much cheaper than a 2-01C from AES) for the HP-410B which was still sealed in the military packing and it works exactly as the original probe. The probe for the HP-410B is wired to a terminal block underneath the instrument. The probe for the HP-410C has a standard 1/4" plug. The schematic for both probes looks identical. Check eBay for probes or a broken HP-410B/HP-410C with probe. I have seen both going quite cheap. 73 de Heinz DH2FA, KM5VT

From courir26@yahoo.com Mon Oct 14 22:05:54 2002
Subject: [R-390] Photo of CY-917 Cabinet??

Does anyone have an electronic photo of a CY-917 cabinet that they can post? 73 Tom

From robdunn1@earthlink.net Mon Oct 14 22:10:19 2002
Subject: [R-390] FS: Hewlett Packard HP-410-C VTVM

I don't believe this is true, I do know that the 410C could be purchased with or without the AC probe and the AC probe could be purchased separately as well. I can believe that the calibration is only valid for a specific probe paired with a specific meter to account for variations in the vacuum tube UHF diode characteristics but the 410C is very easy to recalibrate and the procedures are in the manual.

I have a 410C and it developed a defect in the AC probe that was non-repairable (assemblies are potted). I was able to successfully adapt a replacement probe for a ME-126 VTVM (I think that was the number, it is a Military knock-off of the HP 410B) to be used as a replacement. Later I bought a brand new HP 410C AC Probe off of Ebay. Put the new probe/meter combination through a calibration and it measures accurately and reliably. Great meter. I also have a HP 410B that I rebuilt and calibrated and a couple of the ME-126's. Too many meters for a small bench. Need to clean out some. Rob

From eldim@worldnet.att.net Tue Oct 15 01:04:05 2002
Subject: [R-390] FS: Hewlett Packard HP-410-C VTVM

Hello Rob, and the Group,
You are correct on the 410C VTVM. The AC Probe was a separate option when we requisitioned ours in the Air Force back in the 70's. There may have been another NSN that included the probe as a Option for the government. The units that we received were without the AC Probe and we had to requisition separately. I believe that you were referring to the ME-26 Series of VTVM's that the U.S. ARMY used extensively. This was a predecessor to the HP 410 Series Multimeter and was very rugged in a squared off rectangular aluminum case. The AC Probe was hard-wired along with the rest of the test leads. This probe was much larger in diameter. The 1970 HP Catalog listed the 410C with or without the AC Probe PN: 11036A. The Meter and probe together cost \$495 back in 1970, or the probe alone was \$70. Now for a little TRIVIA. Did you know that Collins Radio assigned a Part Number to this VTVM? The HP 410C also has a Military Designation of ME303A/U. According to the FEDLOG Dated 1 Sept 98 the governments last shown procurement was \$532.00.

NOW FOR THE REST OF THE STORY! The HP-410C Probe 11036A is also known as a MX-8881/U and was last procured for \$364.78 a piece. All branches of the armed services used or still use this probe. It is also part of some specialized Test Set such as the AN/TYA-23 and 27 and shows usage on a wide range of weapon systems from the Poseidon Submarine to the USAF F-111 aircraft.

The HP AC Probe 11036A is usable to 300 VAC, 20 Hz to 700 MHz, Accuracy +/- 3%. GOOD DAY..... 73, Glen Galati, KA7BOJ Tacoma, WA eldim@att.net

From eldim@worldnet.att.net Tue Oct 15 01:08:47 2002
Subject: [R-390] FS: Excess HP-410-C VTVM

Hi Michael, Let have FUN! POST IT ON YOU KNOW WHERE! 73, Glen

From rbethman@comcast.net Tue Oct 15 01:58:13 2002
Subject: [R-390] I have an excess probe for whomever buys the HP-410-C VTVM

Hello all:

I have an excess probe for the aforementioned meter. If you buy the meter, contact me and make offer. Bob - N0DGN

From jmerritt2@capecod.net Tue Oct 15 05:31:43 2002
Subject: [R-390] FS: Hewlett Packard HP-410-C VTVM

Sorry gang. Show's you what happens when you rely on memory instead of the facts ! I just learned a lot though <G>. Chuck N1LNH

From w9wis@charter.net Tue Oct 15 21:22:29 2002
Subject: [R-390] Need CV-591A Relay Cover Measurements

Might someone measure one they have and email the info to me so I can have the metal shop here at work make one for me ? Or any one have a cover for sale Mike

From asolway@sympatico.ca Wed Oct 16 00:44:29 2002
Subject: [R-390] Another old R-390A pic ! In Canada !

Jordon and All,

Need a favor. I have acquired, what I think, is one of those SP-600s that you mention. It's an SP-600-J-3. On the side marked in pencil is what I hope is the NAATO Stock number for the SP-600. The number is 5820-21-041-1103. The 21 indicates Canada as the country of origin. This I am sure is not the manufacturing country, but the country that assigned the number. If I am right then then this is radio is one of the canadian SP-600s you mention. The favor I need is do you know of WWW site that has the catalogue of Canadian Military NATO Stock numbers. I have used Google but all I can turn up is procedures on how to use NATO Stock numbers.

Must tell the story of how I acquired the SP-600. Early last summer got a call from a friend mine whose is a Ham and a Canadian Naval officer. He informed me that he was on his way to Colorado Springs on 3 or 4 year assignment. He was taking most of the ham gear which is a substantial. He had weight limit for moving personal effects that the military assigns. He was sure that he would exceed the limit. He offered me the SP-600 to restore and to keep in my possession for as long as I wanted. This I could not do, but offered him lunch for him and his wife. He accepted. So got the radio for the cost of a lunch (\$85 CDN) for 4 people that included our wives. Not bad.

He told me how he got the radio early last spring. Him and a friend of his attended a city auction in Halifax. Up for auction were stolen items picked up by the police, unclaimed lost items and anything else the city puts on the block. In this case after the city auction was over the auctioneer put his own stuff up for auction. Some of the items included ham gear from a silent key. One lot consisted of a 19 inch rack with a Racal 17 and an SP-600, an SP-600 in a cabinet and Hallicrafters S-22R. They bid and were the only bidders. They got the lot for \$35 CDN including taxes. There were no other hams or anybody there that knew the value of the lot. BTW I also got the Hallicrafters which is very good condition. His friend kept the other SP-600 and the case. Al VE2TAS

From richardlo@devax.admin.athabasca.ca Wed Oct 16 00:58:56 2002
Subject: [R-390] Another old R-390A pic ! In Canada !

wrote: > mention. It's an SP-600-J-3. On the side marked in pencil is what I hope is the > NAATO Stock number for the SP-600. The number is 5820-21-041-1103. The 21

It is not entirely impossible that it was manufactured in Canada, there were Hammarlunds manufactured in Toronto by Stewart Warner? I think it was Stewart Warner but maybe not.

Collins also manufactured some stuff in Toronto including 75A4's at the end of their market life.
Richard Loken VE6BSV

From w2ec@attglobal.net Wed Oct 16 04:34:37 2002
Subject: [R-390] Need CV-591A Relay Cover Measurements

Mike,

I've attached a picture of the one in my CV-591A. The overall dimensions are 2-5/8" wide by 3-11/16" deep by 2-1/2" high. As you can see from the picture, there are two "cutouts" at the bottom of the shield for the wires to enter. On the front, the cutout is the full width of the shield box (2-5/8") and the opening is 1-7/16" high. On the left side (as viewed from the front of the CV-591A) is another opening for wires. This opening is in the shape of a rectangle, also 1-7/16" high like the opening on the front and extends towards the back of the shield 1". There are threaded studs attached to the shield bottom with rivets, the studs project through the chassis so nuts can be attached under the chassis to fasten the shield down. Hope that all makes sense. 73, Ray W2EC

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Wed Oct 16 15:30:17 2002
Subject: [R-390] Another old R-390A pic ! In Canada !

wrote: wrote: >>> mention. It's an SP-600-J-3. On the side marked in pencil is what I hope is the >> NAATO Stock number for the SP-600. The number is 5820-21-041-1103. The 21

>

> It is not entirely impossible that it was manufactured in Canada, there were > Hammarlunds manufactured in Toronto by Stewart Warner? I think it was > Stewart Warner but maybe not.

>> Collins also manufactured some stuff in Toronto including 75A4's at the > end of their market life.

RCA also manufactured receivers in Montreal, the CR-91A comes to mind. Boomer, KA1KAQ

From jordana@nucleus.com Wed Oct 16 16:25:46 2002
Subject: [R-390] Another old R-390A pic ! In Canada !

>From what I can gather, the -21 code indicates Canada as the source of the equipment, ie., the Country of manufacture of the final product. So far that's as much as I can currently comment on...There were also Hallicrafters manufactured in Toronto, and a lot of Collins gear from Collins Canada in Toronto...
73 de Jordan....

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Wed Oct 16 23:38:23 2002
Subject: [R-390] TS-505 and TS-352?

Anyone have any opinions on either of the above mentioned VTVM's?

What's the drill on replacing the BA-31 batteries with something more common?

I have a manual coming for the TS-352 and a manual on military test equipment that has a great section on how tube testers work if someone feels it should be on the R-390 CD compendium. Joe

From laffitte@prtc.net Thu Oct 17 00:06:40 2002
Subject: [R-390] BA haunts in SF

Hi gang,
I will be in San Francisco on a work related trip for a few days in November and would like recommendations as to where to hunt some BA stuff or exhibits during my free time. Thanks for the help. Best 73s Guido Santacana KP4FAR

From iasckids@pacbell.net Thu Oct 17 00:37:35 2002
Subject: [R-390] BA haunts in SF

Hi Guido ,when your out here come visit your non-a and its owner.73 Gregory Mengell

From rbethman@comcast.net Thu Oct 17 00:47:09 2002
Subject: [R-390] TS-505 and TS-352?

Joe,
The TS-352 is NOT a VTVM. It is all solid state. The TS-505 series IS a VTVM. Bob - N0DGN

From courir26@yahoo.com Thu Oct 17 00:47:29 2002
Subject: [R-390] BA haunts in SF

There is a sub museum at Fisherman's Warf. Tom

From rbethman@comcast.net Thu Oct 17 00:54:55 2002
Subject: [R-390] TS-505 and TS-352?

Additionally, the TS-352 components are either 10% or 20% tolerance. I have a PDF manual (If I remember correctly) on the TS-505 series. Let me check, I'll let you know. I could mail it to you. Bob - N0DGN

From bviets@computer.org Thu Oct 17 05:30:33 2002
Date: 16 Oct 2002 21:30:33 -0700

Guido,
The National Maritime Museum near Fisherman's Wharf currently has an interesting radio exhibit. You should check it out, plenty of BA stuff from spark gap to transistors. Have Fun, Byron WB6SBO

From hbreuer@debitel.net Thu Oct 17 11:40:13 2002
Subject: [R-390] BA haunts in SF

Hi Guido,
depending on the exact date of your visit consider the CHRS California Historic Radio Society swapmeet at Foothill College on the first Saturday in November and the Livermore swapmeet on the

first Sunday in November.

CHRS is 4 times each year on the first Saturdays in February, May, August and November. Foothill College is located in Los Altos Hills. Take El Monte Ave/Moody Road exit from I-280. It starts at 8 am firm.

Livermore swapmeet is at the Las Positas College in Livermore. Take the Airway Blvd exit from I-580. Livermore is on the first Sunday each month around the year. Livermore swapmeet starts at 7am firm. >From downtown SFO driving time is about 45 minutes to either location. 73 de Heinz DH2FA, KM5VT

From Richard.McClung@Dielectric.spx.com Thu Oct 17 16:13:18 2002
Subject: [R-390] TS-505 and TS-352?

said: The TS-352 is NOT a VTVM. It is all solid state.

That is partly true. Yes, It is in a solid state. So solid, in fact, you could drive over it with a duce and a half and it will still be usable

But, is it solid state? No, I don't think so. The components in the ME-9/U, which makes up the instrument part of the TS-352, has no solid or hollow state devices. Except for the possibility of a pair of diodes back to back across the meter. RICH @B> }

From rbethman@comcast.net Thu Oct 17 17:39:25 2002
Subject: [R-390] TS-505 and TS-352?

The biggest point is that the TS-352 IS NOT a VTVM, and does NOT have the same high input impedance. Therefore, it WILL NOT do the same job as a VTVM I can't find the PDF, but someone posted a link to manuals awhile back. There was one there. Bob - N0DGN

From Richard.McClung@Dielectric.spx.com Thu Oct 17 18:01:44 2002
Subject: [R-390] TS-505 and TS-352?

The TS-505D/U TM is on a CD that one of the list members has produced.
<<http://users.erols.com/eengineer/add.html>>RICH @B> }

From rbethman@comcast.net Thu Oct 17 18:15:15 2002
Subject: [R-390] TS-505 manuals!

For those wanting the operator's manual, and the maintenance manual, I have them both in PDF form. Zipped together they make 711KB. Send request to me direct and I'll send them by E-mail. Bob - N0DGN

From courir26@yahoo.com Fri Oct 18 12:43:18 2002
Subject: [R-390] Navy Version of 51J-3 with Orig Cabinet

<http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=725117198>

From oracle@netplus.net Sat Oct 19 00:06:24 2002
Subject: [R-390] CV-591A question

Hello everybody,

I would to buy a CV-591A or similar to go with my R-390 non "A". I have never had one of these before and I would like to know if anybody knows if there are different manufacturers and if so what is the difference between them? ? What about models? Are there different models ranging from new to old? What are the going prices for these? Thank you, Wes

From dsmaples@comcast.net Sat Oct 19 01:09:18 2002
Subject: [R-390] Many thanks

All: Thanks for the suggestions and help on the R-390A. I have now successfully completed recapping the IF, audio, and power supply sections, and the improvement is quite significant. Interestingly enough, the distortion in the detector seems to have gone away (not sure what fixed it, but I'll sure take it!). Thanks again, Dave WB4FUR

From jbrannig@optonline.net Sat Oct 19 13:28:42 2002
Subject: [R-390] CV-591A question

The CV-591 and variants were made by TMC of Mamaroneck, NY. The best one had an adjustable AGC output. Other "Single Sideband receiving adapters" were made by B&W, Eldico and Hammarlund. The best one is the Hammarlund HC-10 (if you can find one) There are also a number of "home-brew" designs around. They all work on the same principle: A product detector with a crystal and/or variable BFO, additional IF filtering and an audio amplifier. Different models include noise reduction, Q-multipliers, pass-band tuning and S-meters. Jim

From r390auser@cox.net Sun Oct 20 02:47:24 2002
Subject: [R-390] FS: Ripple 390A

To the List:

I have decided to part with my Chuck Ripple restored 390A. I am the second owner and bought it from another list member about a year and half ago. This is a nice EAC unit, except for the power supply, which is a Motorola, with like new top and bottom covers. It also has Chuck's solid state ballast tube replacement module. The front panel and knobs are in very good condition and show minimal wear. It has original meters etc. The power supply has been solid stated. I have the book that was prepared for the original owner by Chuck. This radio shows excellent sensitivity and stability and appears to still meet the same specs when the it was completed. The price is \$1050.00 plus shipping from 85254 in Phoenix, Az . I can email pictures to those who have a real interest in purchasing this excellent piece of work. Thanks, Kurt Holbrook

From laffitte@prtc.net Sun Oct 20 03:32:09 2002
Subject: [R-390] microswitch

Well, the message has arrived. I was waiting for my original EAC (with 3TF7 and 26Z5s) to give me a

signal for an overhaul and here it is. The microswitch will not turn off and stay in standby. Long time no see this one. It was about time I took it off the rack anyway even though it's sensitivity and tracking are excellent. Got to find the backbelt. Cheers and 73s Guido KP4FAR

From mikobrien@yahoo.com Sun Oct 20 15:36:43 2002

Subject: [R-390] Teledyne, Amelco tags ? and removing/ fixing RTTY control

Hi All

I have 2 r-390a receivers with the same order # but 2 different companys The order # is 35064-pc-62 The companys are Amelco (# 1453) and Teledyne (# 2702) The Amelco was bought from a ham and the Teledyne came from fair radio. It looks the Amelco has a Amelco rf deck with Teledyne pc-63 audio and PS The Teledyne unit is mixed Would anyone know about this order # ?

Also does anyone know how to remove or fix the RTTY control on the BFO (my Amelco) The black part with the numbers dial is loose and turns when you rotate the knob Thanks Mike

From Llgpt@aol.com Sun Oct 20 15:54:43 2002

Subject: [R-390] Teledyne, Amelco tags ? and removing/ fixing RTTY control

writes:< The Teledyne unit is mixed Would anyone know about this order # ? >>

Teledyne acquired Amelco during the 5,000 production run. Not at all uncommon. Les Locklear

From Aidehua@aol.com Sun Oct 20 15:57:56 2002

Subject: [R-390] Teledyne, Amelco tags ? and removing/ fixing RTTY control

I have both a Teledyne and an Amelco. They were indeed combined under the same contract. The Contract # was 35064-PC-62. They were produced in 1962. If you have a combination of components, then you have the original run. The PTO should be either Progresitron(sp?) or Dubrow...Hope that helps. 73, Ed

From courir26@yahoo.com Sun Oct 20 16:51:02 2002

Subject: [R-390] Teledyne, Amelco , Imperial Story

Gentlemen?

Here is the story on the Amelco/Teledyne connection.

The Amelco story starts with Teledyne. In the fall of 1960 Dr. Henry Singleton and Dr. George Kozmetsky left Litton Industries and formed Teledyne Inc. Teledyne's first acquisition was to purchase a small electronic "build to print" manufacturing company in Los Angeles named Amelco, which was located on Panama Street in Culver City. Amelco was the first operating company of Teledyne. They bid and won contract 35064-PC-62 for the manufacture of R-390A's in late in early 1962. The first units were manufactured and shipped with the name Amelco on the name tags. Before all units on this contract were shipped, the name of the company was changed to Teledyne Systems Corporation and the remaining units under this contract were shipped under that name.

In the meantime, another Los Angeles area company named Imperial won contract 37856-PC-63 to make R-390As. Teledyne acquired Imperial shortly thereafter, and all units shipped under the names Amelco, Teledyne Systems Corporation and Imperial were manufactured and shipped from the plant on Panama Street in Culver City. According to my research, about 7600 radios were built by Teledyne under the three company names and two orders. In summary, the Teledyne production of R-390As looked something like this (hope the tabs don't mess it up):

Badge Name	Order No.	High s.n. noted
Amelco	35064-PC-62	2540
Teledyne Systems Corp	35064-PC-62	3642
Imperial	37856-PC-63	3022
Teledyne Systems Corp	37856-PC-63	3976
Total Production, at least 7619 sets.		

Hope this helps. 73 Tom N5OFF

From myoung76@bellsouth.net Mon Oct 21 05:07:27 2002
Subject: [R-390] Rack Mounting a R-390

How far up from the bottom of the chassis should the center line of rack slides be located to meet EIA rack standards? Mikey

From jbrannig@optonline.net Mon Oct 21 11:53:18 2002
Subject: [R-390] C-span2

I was watching "The Pueblo Incident: A Spy Ship and the Failure of American Foreign Policy" by Mitchell Lerner on C-SPAN2, Sunday Morning. During his talk, he mentioned the loss of crypto equipment "and Eight, highly secret R-390 radios" FWIW Jim

From iasckids@pacbell.net Mon Oct 21 17:46:06 2002
Subject: [R-390] visit

Hi I will be in Tampa ,Florida Thursday thru early Sunday . Are the friends of the Family R390 amenable to visits?I would like to spend my free time positively after business hours.73 Gregory Mengell

From k06bb@elite.net Mon Oct 21 22:14:21 2002
Subject: [R-390] A story of two grounds.

Hello all.

Sometime back I re-capped and serviced this '67EAC R-390A that I'm presently using and it performs VERY well. I chose to go the "under chassis" route for the 'lytics rather than rebuild the cans.

One thing that I noticed was that this set had some 120Hz noise in the Local audio that, while not loud was noticable with the volume turned all the way down. NOT a hum, it was more like the line related switching noise one hears from Triac controlled lamps etc. So today I decided to troubleshoot it (I

HAVE to get a helper to move this thing around 8^). I suspected a ground loop.

To make a long story short. When I mounted the capacitors under the chassis I mounted two solder lugs under existing screws, cleaning under them to make sure they made good contact. This so I could make a VERY neat installation of the capacitors as the lugs provided a convenient mounting point for the ground end of the 'lytics. I've done this before with good luck. Previous sets had the Solid state rectifiers while this one has intact tube rectifiers. Anyway, on a hunch I replaced the ground lugs with two insulated terminal strips (Radio Shack) in which I had cut off all but one insulated lug. I then connected the negative end of the capacitors to these lugs and ran a ground wire back to the two appropriate Capacitor Octal sockets giving the capacitors their original ground points.

Upon testing, Voila! That did the trick. IF I put my ear on the speaker I can 'just discern' the noise. In normal operation certainly not noticable like it was.

MORAL OF THE STORY: I'm sure Art Collins spent a lot of money researching and designing the grounds in our beloved R-390A's, don't try to second guess him 8^)

One additional Note: The ground lug where these caps are originally grounded IS NOT all that far from where one of my ground lugs was located. 73 de Phil KO6BB

From andywilliams@pobox.com Tue Oct 22 00:26:40 2002
Subject: [R-390] WTB: T601 & T602

The restoration of my R-390 is almost complete. I need 2 audio transformers, T601 and T602 to complete the job. Both transformers are the same type and I think that they are the same for both the R-390 and R-390A. I believe one of both of these are removed during the Klermenos audio mod. So if you have an extra transformer, I know where there is a needy R-390. Andy

From ba.williams@charter.net Tue Oct 22 01:17:46 2002
Subject: [R-390] Q Multiplier wanted

Anyone have a Heath HD-11 or QF-1 to sell?

From djmerz@3-cities.com Tue Oct 22 15:55:14 2002
Subject: [R-390] WTB: T601 & T602

Andy, no, neither is removed for this mod - there's unused space for the output transformer on the original audio chassis. You can buy an audio chassis from Fair Radio for \$30. They don't list the audio xfmr separately, but you might try calling them. Sorry I can't help you more than that, Dan

From k06bb@elite.net Tue Oct 22 18:23:26 2002
Subject: [R-390] Need R-390A Transformer T-208

Hello all.

I finally located and received Z501 and now all I need to install the Xtal filter in my homebrewed "hollow state" Longwave CW receiver is the matching IF transformer. THis is Transformer T-208 and sits next to the 3rd Mixer in the R-390A RF deck.

Anybody have one at a reasonable price? Please uote "shipped" price to 95348 (Merced California). 73 de Phil KO6BB

From Richard.McClung@Dielectric.spx.com Tue Oct 22 19:56:53 2002
Subject: [R-390] Case CY-927/URR

Wanted: Shock Mounts, 8-EA, for CY-927/URR

From Aidehua@aol.com Tue Oct 22 20:44:06 2002
Subject: [R-390] FS: CY-979 Cabinet

Very Good to Excellent Condition. Shock mounts included. \$250 plus shipping. 73, Ed NI6S

From cosmos41@ix.netcom.com Tue Oct 22 21:17:02 2002
Subject: [R-390] FS: Collins R-390A/URR - Restored by Chuck Rippel

Guys and Gals,

The last time I placed this receiver up for sale, my asking price reflected what I thought the receiver was worth but my assessment was based on better market times. I'm having to face the hard reality that, no matter how sweet the receiver, it's a buyer's market right now. So, I'm placing this beautiful old gal up for sale one last time. If it doesn't sell this time at \$800 less than I advertised it for last time (!), then I'll simply keep her and find the money somewhere else for the observatory I'm building!

The price is \$1400 FIRM plus actual shipping costs! Read the following description from my earlier ad and act fast.

I have for sale my own personal R-390A/URR. You may read all the particulars and view the receiver at the links below.

<http://www.geocities.com/sweetvengeance/R-390a.htm>

<http://www.geocities.com/sweetvengeance/390cab.jpg>

Please note that the photo (as mentioned in the text) is not of the actual receiver but is identical except for the type of fasteners used to mount the receiver in the cabinet.

If you are a serious inquirer, you may request an email which details the complete "Restoration Summary" of all actions performed by Chuck Rippel on this receiver.

Terms: Cash if receiver is picked up. If shipped, money order or cashier's check only. Thanks for looking. Ron - KD5S (K5MVR from 1957 to 2001)

From k06bb@elite.net Wed Oct 23 22:15:31 2002
Subject: [R-390] TUBES FS: 26Z5 Pulls.

Hello all.

I have "solid stated" my R-390A (yes I put a compensating resistor in it) and as a consequence have 4 "pull" 26Z5 tubes (the two from my receiver and a couple spares). All tested well into the green on an emission tester and appeared reasonably well matched, but more importantly were tested in my R-390A and work well.

Will sell all 4 for 25.00 which includes being individually wrapped and packed well, shipped by Priority mail. 73 de Phil KO6BB

From k06bb@elite.net Wed Oct 23 22:41:11 2002
Subject: [R-390] 26Z5 tubes spoken for.

Subject says it all, I didn't figure it'd take long 8^). 73 de Phil KO6BB

From k06bb@elite.net Wed Oct 23 23:34:09 2002
Subject: [R-390] Modded my R-390A...

Hello all.

Today I did a couple things that I've been wanting to do to the R-390A. First I put solid state rectifiers in it (3 "fast" 400 piv series diodes in each leg as I had em) for two reasons. Less heat and I suspect more reliability (though I had two "pulled" spares that I've had for a couple years). Yes, I put a 220 Ohm 25 Watt (I had the 25W) resistor in the power supply to "compensate" for the diodes smaller Voltage drop.

Secondly, I wanted to change the "Local" audio amplifier to a circuit that would provide more drive to my speaker (which is not overly efficient). Sometime back Roy Morgan had sent me an email converting the local audio to a 6AQ5 which was wired as a Triode. This same "mod" changed several other items on the audio deck for better biasing of the 12AU7 tubes, removal of feedback etc. ALL being aimed towards lower distortion and wider bandwidth. This was GOOD as I had a small audio output transformer scrounged from a set that used a 6AQ5 as the output section. This transformer had BOTH an 8 Ohm and a 500 Ohm tap on the secondary. I chose to use the 8 Ohm and ignor the 500 Ohm winding (I have the "line audio" output if I need 600 Ohms. For this reason, rather than wire the 6AQ5 as a Triode I opted to use it as a Pentode so it'd match the transformer well. And rather than use the 15 Volt Zener for Cathode bias of the 6AQ5 (as the mod sheet showed) I chose to use a 390 Ohm 2 Watt wirewound resistor. I DON't like Zeners in cathode biased circuits as they 'usually' fail in the SHORTED mode and this would zero bias the output tube, drawing excessive current and possibly (likely) doing other damage!!! I removed the original "Local Audio" output transformer and the new transformer fit and mounted well in the original space, though only with one mounting leg screwed down. A terminal strip was mounted below chassis to use as tie lugs for the leads that connected to the original transformer and the new transformer.

THIS MOD IS 100% REVERSABLE AS I CEKPT THE TRANSFORMER ETC AND NO HOLES WERE DRILLED!

The results?? Fidelity is much improved and the audio drive is more than sufficient for the speaker I'm using. YES I know this is a communications receiver but that doesn't mean it has to have lousy audio 8^) 73 de Phil KO6BB

From vze2gmp4@verizon.net Thu Oct 24 00:29:07 2002
Subject: [R-390] Modded my R-390A...

Phil,

Glad you liked my audio mod, Roy Morgan likes to send other peoples work out without giving credits. I havn't had any problems with the zener on the 6aq5 shorting, but you never know. Mine's been cooking for a couple of years now. In regards to the output impedance using the 5000z transformenr it matches a 6aq5 triode fine with -15 bias. The distortion is a lot less than running as a pentode. I would also run -17 to -18 volts instead of -15 as a pentode. Draws less current and should sound better.(My original setup before I went triode.)Just courious if you removed the 2 feedback paths in the original circuit. There are other changes than just changing the output tube. Just courious if you did them.

www.geocities.com/husbeck for the complete mod. Regards, Helm. WB2ADT

From jlkolb@cts.com Thu Oct 24 01:13:32 2002
Subject: [R-390] Modded my R-390A...

wrote: > First I put solid state rectifiers in it (3 "fast" 400 piv series diodes in > each leg as I had em) for two reasons. Less heat and I suspect more > reliability (though I had two "pulled" spares that I've had for a couple > years). Yes, I put a 220 Ohm 25 Watt (I had the 25W) resistor in the power > supply to "compensate" for the diodes smaller Voltage drop.

Gosh, and I took your previous msg saying you had "solid stated" your R-390A to mean you had replaced ALL the tubes with trans****rs - I was just waiting for the firestorm to start :) John

From k06bb@elite.net Thu Oct 24 03:17:10 2002
Subject: [R-390] Modded my R-390A...

> Gosh, and I took your previous msg saying you had "solid stated" your > R-390A to mean you had replaced ALL the tubes with trans****rs - I > was just waiting for the firestorm to start :) > John

And do you 'really' think that I'd have the nerve to post such a desecration to this reflector ?? Any changes/mods that I do must be fairly easily reversable and as a rule NO holes drilled. The one exception to this rule was the RCA jack I mounted next to the 3rd mixer for the outboard Q-multiplier as it was the only way I felt the job could be done properly. 73 de Phil KO6BB

From w5or@comcast.net Thu Oct 24 04:45:14 2002
Subject: [R-390] Solid State Mods

Ahem! Contrary to expressed opinions (not just you, Phil) there is NO prohibition on this list regarding modifications to the R-390. Some folks don't LIKE the mods, and express their opinions, but if its on topic and isn't just to stir pots, then its quite reasonable fodder for thought and discussion. I think the general consensus is that a full solid state mod of all the tube circuits in the R-390 would be a major undertaking with no guarantee of results.

I have an R-388 that was almost fully solid stated, and it quit working before I had a chance to analyze how well (or badly) it performed next to an original one. I have no documentation on the mods, and

there are lots of 'loose ends' in the receiver. With too much ripped out to ever put it back together (the R-388 is not modular like the R-390 series), a kluged on Collins mechanical filter adaptor that sticks up over the top panel, and several homebrew printed circuit boards it is quite a sight. It is certainly an example of how a project can go awry. Don Reaves R-390 list administrator

From r.tetrault@attbi.com Thu Oct 24 05:43:28 2002
Subject: [R-390] Solid State Mods

I'll fix it for you Phil! Send it as-is and I'll make it as good or better (probably much better) than the original modifier! Documented, with performance specs... Bob

From cbscott@ingr.com Thu Oct 24 15:04:00 2002
Subject: [R-390] Modded my R-390A...

Helm,

I hate to see Roy's name dragged around that way. How do you know the email he sent to Phil did not give you credit for the design? I'm not trying to start a flame war here, but I think you have insinuated something that may not have occurred. Roy may have simply forwarded something to Phil that was originally from you (or mentioned you as the designer/author). From Phil's post, it is unclear what was sent and I don't think accusing Roy that way is a bit uncalled for. Regards, Barry - N4BUQ

From k06bb@elite.net Thu Oct 24 15:43:00 2002
Subject: [R-390] Modded my R-390A...

Hi All.

Ok, let me make myself clearer. The email that Roy sent me DID have Helms callsign at the top crediting him so that he got credit, just not the name. I apologize if it caused any misunderstandings as that was not my intent. I should have looked the callsign up and made sure all credit was given proper due before posting my message. The R-390A sure does sound better in any case!! 73 de Phil KO6BB

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Thu Oct 24 17:12:06 2002
Subject: [R-390] Solid State Mods

wrote: <snip> > I have an R-388 that was almost fully solid stated, and it quit working > before I had a chance to analyze how well (or badly) it performed next to an > original one. I have no documentation on the mods, and there are lots of > 'loose ends' in the receiver. With too much ripped out to ever put it back > together (the R-388 is not modular like the R-390 series), a kluged on > Collins mechanical filter adaptor that sticks up over the top panel, and > several homebrew printed circuit boards it is quite a sight. It is > certainly an example of how a project can go awry.

I guess we know who's house to visit this halloween!

Seriously though, Don is right in what he says here. I'm one of the users who speaks up against mods *only* if they are irreversible and destroy a piece of history no longer being manufactured. I'm not at all against mods that extend the life of a radio or replace otherwise-unobtainable parts to bring a rig back to life. I realize that some enjoy the 'challenge' of trying to improve a good design or to do it their way, and I'm not one who'd prevent it if I could - I'd merely discourage the destructive part, that's all. I'm against

adding holes or anything really that involves a Sawzall or air chisel. There are some who don't even want you to disturb a solder joint or change a single component! Talk about the opposite extreme. If you totally gutted and rebuilt an R-390 with all new technology, it would no longer be an R-390 receiver. And if you refuse to put power to it for fear of frying a component, it becomes a paper weight(big 'un!), and no longer an R-390 receiver since it doesn't receive.

I think it's not only good that we can find ways around rectifiers, ballast tubes, or anything else that goes bad, it will become more and more important and necessary as time goes by. However, if you want a solid state R-390(or other old BA), why not just find an empty chassis and panel, then mount a RatShak receiver behind it? Saves a lot of time! It just seems wasteful to me to try to make a tube set into a transistor set when it wasn't meant to be and others already exist. That's my argument against 'mods', not all-encompassing by any means. One of the most interesting threads I recall related to trying other tubes in circuits, which grew out of the 'trying the same tube in a different stage' thread. I like the mods like clipping pins off a tube (12BA6?) and using it to replace the 3TF7 after swapping out the PTO tubes. There are some really good ideas out there which require no major rig surgery.

Okay, okay....so maybe I still feel a tinge of guilt now and again over the old command set receiver I 'modified with numerous improvements'(irreversibly hacked up) in college. It still works, it still uses tubes, and it gave me a far greater appreciation for original designs and owning/using historical artifacts. Back then I was willing to replace the dynamotor with a 115v power supply and add a few controls. Now I want to use them as designed, that's part of the fun for me. I have plenty of other radios that will plug into the wall. If you think solid stating a power supply is fun, try locating all the pieces for a complete ARC-5 or ART-13 set up. They used to be available cheap, now they're hard to find in unhacked shape. Expect the same for R-390s and other currently 'plentiful' radio gear.

Just don't mention Dr. Locklear's ballast mod tricks - we already know he's a witch..... 73 de Todd/'Boomer' KA1KAQ

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Thu Oct 24 18:11:10 2002
Subject: [R-390] Modded my R-390A...

Yup. Roy certainly is a class act and has given me a lot of encouragement. Don't think he would do something like that maliciously. IF he did not give credit, it was just an oversight. Scott

From k06bb@elite.net Thu Oct 24 18:20:21 2002
Subject: [R-390] Modded my R-390A...

Thought I answered this. Yes, the email Roy sent me had Helms' CALLSIGN at the top. If anyone is to blame it is me for NOT looking up the callsign and giving proper credit in my original post. I apologize to all around over this. AND, thank you to all who provides so much great information and help on this reflector. 73 de Phil KO6BB

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Thu Oct 24 18:22:44 2002
From: tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us (Todd Bigelow - PS)

wrote: > Yup. Roy certainly is a class act and has given me a lot > of encouragement. Don't think he would do something > like that maliciously. IF he did not give credit, it was just > an oversight. > Scott

Agreed. He's sent me information and always credited the person responsible by either name or callsign. I've had the pleasure of meeting Roy and spending some time with him, he is nothing less than a gentleman in the very sense of the word. I'm not so sure if I'll be as willing to compliment him once he gets that big transmitter up and running, though... <envy><*drool*><envy> de Todd/'Boomer'
KA1KAQ

From jbrannig@optonline.net Thu Oct 24 18:27:53 2002
Subject: [R-390] Solid State Mods

> Okay, okay....so maybe I still feel a tinge of guilt now and again over the old > command set receiver I
'modified with numerous improvements'(irreversibly hacked > up) in college.

I recently came across the "carcass" of my old 40M ARC-5 transmitter and felt kinda' bad.....but those old radios put a lot of Hams on the air and taught electronics (the hard way) to a lot more.... Jim

From David_Wise@Phoenix.com Thu Oct 24 20:15:22 2002
Subject: [R-390] Solid State Mods

Note carefully that he doesn't say he'll send it back :-) 73, dw

From Thu Oct 24 20:34:59 2002
Subject: [R-390] Modded my R-390A...

wrote:>Helm, >> How do you know the email he (Roy) sent to Phil did not give you credit > for the design?

Here is what I sent to Phil:

> At 06:40 PM 9/2/02 +0000, (Phil) wrote:

>Hello All.

>Working on the 2nd R-390A (Dons machine). It has one dead and one very >very weak 6AK6 in the audio section (explains why the Line audio didn't >work.

>

>I remember last time I rebuilt a R-390A I subbed 6AQ5's for the audio >output stages. If I recall correctly all it entailed was changing the >wiring on a couple tube pins (which I can figure out from the tube >>manual). Checking around I no longer seem to see this mod on the web.

>

>(my reply to him and the list): >Here are my notes from WB2ADT: >I also have his schematics and other stuff.. >Got this from some web page. >>(begin information from WB2ADT): >Introduction

>

>The audio section in most receivers seems to be at best an after thought >in the overall aspect of radio design. The R-390a is certainly not the >worst of the bunch (and so on) Roy

From r.tetrault@attbi.com Thu Oct 24 20:38:48 2002
Subject: [R-390] Solid State Mods

Smart man...

From Thu Oct 24 20:42:54 2002
Subject: [R-390] Drooling on equipment

wrote: > (kind words left out..) >I'm not so sure if I'll be as willing to compliment him once he gets that big >transmitter up and running, though... <envy><*drool*><envy>

Todd refers to the TMC GPT-750 that will after a while warm the ether from this location.

Todd, if you become less eager to be kind to me, I may have to come up to your place again and drool upon your KW-1. Then, I'll bring in some pizza and feed some to that nice cat you have.

Maybe if you work on the KW-1 high voltage problem, and I clear out my cellar enough to install the TMC, we'll be on the air about the same time. heheh Roy

From r.tetrault@attbi.com Thu Oct 24 20:44:30 2002
Subject: [R-390] Drooling on equipment

I'd be happy to fix them both at my QTH. You'd both be advised when to listen for them... Bob
BTW, Roy, where did you find it?

From hankarn@pacbell.net Thu Oct 24 20:57:52 2002
Subject: [R-390] Modded my R-390A...

Already all right I have 40X glass we can use to get the fly specks out of the black pepper. Talk about use of BW. Hank KN6DI

Yes I know me toooooo!!!!!!

From barry@hausernet.com Thu Oct 24 22:08:16 2002
Subject: [R-390] Modded my R-390A...

Greetings to the list ...

Now that we've established, or re-established that Roy's a great guy (and I agree), I'm afraid there are some other issues to deal with. They concern our dear friend Phil A.

For one, he outright admitted that he actually drilled a hole to install an RCA jack in our R-390A. (Private ownership of historical relics is a mere illusion, a commercial technicality, and in Phil's case, often very temporary.) In one move, a double infraction. First, there's the hole. Then an RCA jack? What's this, some kind of Victrola? At least he could have had the common decency to be thematically consistent and installed a BNC.

There's more. What's the purpose of the abovementioned abomination? To connect a Q-multiplier, right? The physical act of the connection is reversible just a single coax connection (albeit via that unauthorized orifice). However, it does, in no uncertain terms, indicate the intent to operate an R-390A at a Q other than the official, sanctioned Q. The Collins gurus in their wisdom equipped the R-390A with a wide range of selectivity settings. They did not see fit to add a Q-multiplier. Enough said.

Finally, Phil Atchely is a great guy, but he's also a self-confessed lower with a penchant for dx-ing and monitoring beacons. This gives cause for concern. Perhaps the only thing worse is someone admitting to listening to numbers stations the whole program and writing all the numbers down. Highly suspicious. But that's not the issue. While R-390A's differ as to numbers of holes, official and unofficial mods, manufacturer, purity of modules, etc., what do all have in common? Even though the tags vary somewhat, what do they all say, emblazoned and indelibly etched alongside the voltage requirements? A low end of 500 kc. Phil is operating his R-390A at odds with the official nomenclature plate and, yes folks, technically he is therefore "out of bounds". Is nothing holy?

All this will have to be taken up before the tribunal. Of course, I'll be a character witness. (People say I'm a real character ;-) Barry

From r.tetrault@attbi.com Thu Oct 24 22:17:25 2002
Subject: [R-390] Modded my R-390A...

Yeah, I'll drink to that last sentence...

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Thu Oct 24 22:28:08 2002
Subject: [R-390] Drooling on equipment

wrote: wrote: >> (kind words left out..) >>I'm not so sure if I'll be as willing to compliment him once he gets that big >>transmitter up and running, though... <envy><*drool*><envy>

>

> Todd refers to the TMC GPT-750 that will after a while warm the ether from > this location.

Now that's a transmitter! Any R-390 or A would be PROUD to be associated with a -750. I'd love to have a T-3 or a GPT-750, but you guys have 'em all.

> Maybe if you work on the KW-1 high voltage problem, and I clear out my > cellar enough to install the TMC, we'll be on the air about the same time.

Are you challenging me, mister? Because I never turn down a challenge(usually). I don't always win, but it's the thought that counts. If you recall, the rack just to the left of that transmitter houses the R-390, the A, and the SP-600 along with the CU-286 coupler. Believe it or not, the younger cat (Echo, who's not yet 3) can leap up on top of there at will. I think he cheats though, by getting onto the Johnson first and jumping up from there. At least he has good taste in which radios to sleep on. He enjoys slapping loose tubes around on the floor, too.

I'm going to check inside the rack tonight and see if you snuck some catnip in there.... Boomer, KA1KAQ

From cbscott@ingr.com Thu Oct 24 22:40:41 2002
Subject: [R-390] RE: Modded my R-390A...

Is someone going to get voted off the island? Barry - N4BUQ

From Llqpt@aol.com Fri Oct 25 00:59:18 2002

Subject: [R-390] Modded my R-390A...

writes: << Greetings to the list ...

Now that we've established, or re-established that Roy's a great guy (and I agree), I'm afraid there are some other issues to deal with. They concern our dear friend Phil A. For one, he outright admitted that he actually drilled a hole to install an RCA jack in our R-390A. (Private ownership of historical relics is a mere illusion, a commercial technicality, and in Phil's case, often very temporary.) In one move, a double infraction. First, there's the hole.

Then an RCA jack? What's this, some kind of Victrola? No, he musta thought it was an ARC-5.....one of them without extra holes is kinda suspect.....

At least he could have had the common decency to be thematically consistent and installed a BNC.

"Thematically"????????????????? Don't try to one up us Perffessor!! There's more. What's the purpose of the abovementioned abomination? To connect a Q-multiplier, right? The physical act of the connection is reversible just a single coax connection (albeit via that unauthorized orifice). However, it does, in no uncertain terms, indicate the intent to operate an R-390A at a Q other than the official, sanctioned Q. The Collins gurus in their wisdom equipped the R-390A with a wide range of selectivity settings. They did not see fit to add a Q-multiplier. Enough said. Well, if that Q-Multiplier is placed wrong, there will be inquiries as the availability of failed mechanical filters.....bzzzzzzzzzzzzzzttttttttt...ooooooooopppppss!!

Finally, Phil Atchely is a great guy, but he's also a self-confessed lower with a penchant for dx-ing and monitoring beacons. Jest like that lower Barry Williams and Ed Norton.

This gives cause for concern. Perhaps the only thing worse is someone admitting to listening to numbers stations the whole program and writing all the numbers down. Highly suspicious. But that's not the issue. While R-390A's differ as to numbers of holes, official and unofficial mods, manufacturer, purity of modules, etc., what do all have in common? Even though the tags vary somewhat, what do they all say, emblazoned and indelibly etched alongside the voltage requirements? A low end of 500 kc. Phil is operating his R-390A at odds with the official nomenclature plate and, yes folks, technically he is therefore "out of bounds". Is nothing holy?

Nope, "nuttin honey"

All this will have to be taken up before the tribunal. Of course, I'll be a character witness. (People say I'm a real character ;-) Barry
>>

Says Who????????????????? Alfred E. Neuman

From chacuff@cableone.net Fri Oct 25 00:59:38 2002
Subject: [R-390] Modded my R-390A...

I am sure he would consider reversing the mods if someone would send him a nicely restored SP-600VLF... In fact I wouldn't mind having one of them myself! Cecil...

From Llgpt@aol.com Fri Oct 25 01:00:41 2002
Subject: [R-390] RE: Modded my R-390A...

writes: << Is someone going to get voted off the island? Barry - N4BUQ >>

Yep!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Floogle Hackenbush

From Llgpt@aol.com Fri Oct 25 01:03:13 2002
Subject: [R-390] Modded my R-390A...

writes: << I am sure he would consider reversing the mods if someone would send him a nicely restored SP-600VLF... In fact I wouldn't mind having one of them myself! Cecil... >>

He has six of 'em, waaiting for a run on E-Pay!!!!!!!!!!!! KV4FZ

From k06bb@elite.net Fri Oct 25 02:07:23 2002
Subject: [R-390] Modded my R-390A...

> I am sure he would consider reversing the mods if someone would send him > nicely restored SP-600VLF... > In fact I wouldn't mind having one of them myself! > Cecil...

Are ya volunteering to send me one? I'll give it a VERY good home and as you said I'd be more than willing to reverse the mods on the '67 EAC! 73 de Phil KO6BB

From k06bb@elite.net Fri Oct 25 02:22:44 2002
Subject: Phil's defense (Was Re: [R-390] Modded my R-390A...)

> Then an RCA jack? What's this, some kind of Victrola? > At least he could have had the common decency to be thematically > consistent and installed a BNC.
> "Thematically"???????????????? Don't try to one up us Perfessor!!

The RCA Jack required a smaller hole. Besides the Heathkit HD-11 had an RCA plug on it's connecting cable. I wouldn't want to desecrate the Heathkit by doing any unauthorized mods to it 8^)

> There's more. What's the purpose of the above mentioned abomination? To > connect a Q-multiplier, right? The physical act of the connection is > reversible just a single coax connection (albeit via that unauthorized > orifice). However, it does, in no uncertain terms, indicate the intent > to operate an R-390A at a Q other than the official, sanctioned Q. The > Collins gurus in their wisdom equipped the R-390A with a wide range of > selectivity settings. They did not see fit to add a Q-multiplier.

Well, the Collins folks with all their wisdon DID NOT provide a "Notch function" on this otherwise fine receiver. Besides, this way I can get selectivity between 4 and 8 kHz, whatever is optimum for the station I'm listening to. (8kc is often to wide and 4 too narrow)

> Well, if that Q-Multiplier is placed wrong, there will be inquiries as > the availabilty of failed mechanical filters.....bzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzttttttttt...ooooooopppppps!!!

Nope. It's in the RF deck well separated from the Mechanical filters both physically AND elctrically.

AND I added a .033uF coupling Cap between the plate of the 3rd mixer and the jack for DC isolation. Something Heath didn't suggest, but I figured a shorted cable would take my IF transformer out. THEN I'd be looking for another T-208 and I had trouble enough finding ONE for my homebrewed Longwave receiver project!

> A low end of 500 kc. Phil is operating his > R-390A at odds with the official nomenclature plate and, yes folks, > technically he is therefore "out of bounds".

I just looked at the nomenclature plate on this '67 EAC and the only frequency that is shown on it is 48-62 cycles. Am I missing something here??? And NO, it is not one of those phoney plates that you buy through ER 8^)

Runnin' and duckin' in Central California (where've I heard that before). Phil KO6BB

From Llgpt@aol.com Fri Oct 25 02:37:57 2002
Subject: Phil's defense (Was Re: [R-390] Modded my R-390A...)

writes: << A low end of 500 kc. Phil is operating his > R-390A at odds with the official nomenclature plate and, yes folks, > technically he is therefore "out of bounds".

I just looked at the nomenclature plate on this '67 EAC and the only frequency that is shown on it is 48-62 cycles. Am I missing something here??? And NO, it is not one of those phoney plates that you buy through ER 8^)

Runnin' and duckin' in Central California (where've I heard that before). Phil KO6BB >>

The R-390A can and does tune down to the low end of the readout.....albeit with a couple of touches and moving of cables. This has been well documented by maany others in HSN. I have two friends in the memphis, Tn. area that use their R-390a's for listening to LW stations from europe. Les

From dave_faria@hotmail.com Fri Oct 25 04:55:45 2002
Subject: [R-390] Mixer Coil substitute For R-390 Non A

For those who are intrested I substituted a R390A mixer coil "T208" for the "T207" in the R390 non A. The radio lined up and seems to be working just fine. I have seen 3 non A RF Decks in the last 4 years with the "T207" coil bad. Dave Faria

From k06bb@elite.net Fri Oct 25 02:46:07 2002
Subject: Phil's defense (Was Re: [R-390] Modded my R-390A...)

> The R-390A can and does tune down to the low end of the > readout.....albeit with a couple of touches and moving of cables. This> has been well documented by maany others in HSN. I have two friends in the > memphis, Tn. area that use their R-390a's for listening to LW stations from > europe.

Yep, mine with the outboard 50dB preamp does well all the way down to 10kc (doesn't do kHz)and only stops there because tht is the lower limit of the tuning range of the pre-amp! On it's lowest range (tunes 10kc to 11Mc in 9 ranges) the preamp has to be re-tuned every couple hundred CPS or so. Mostly I inhabit the area of 200kc to 530kc!! Phil KO6BB

From Llgpt@aol.com Fri Oct 25 02:58:32 2002
Subject: Phil's defense (Was Re: [R-390] Modded my R-390A...)

writes: << > The R-390A can and does tune down to the low end of the > readout.....albeit with a couple of touches and moving of cables.

This > has been well documented by maany others in HSN. I have two friends in the > memphis, Tn. area that use their R-390a's for listening to LW stations from> europe.

Yep, mine with the outboard 50dB preamp does well all the way down to 10kc (doesn't do kHz)and only stops there because tht is the lower limit of the tuning range of the pre-amp! On it's lowest range (tunes 10kc to 11Mc in 9 ranges) the preamp has to be re-tuned every couple hundred CPS or so. Mostly I inhabit the area of 200kc to 530kc!!Phil KO6BB

>>

I play around with the LF frequencies a little bit, mainly use a Drake R8B and a with a . Les Locklear

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Fri Oct 25 03:25:41 2002
Subject: [R-390] Modded my R-390A... Trial, verdict & sentence

Boatanchor justice is swift indeed. Here are the proceedings of the plenary tribunal session convened in the matter of one Mr. Atchley's high crimes and misdemeanors concerning one R-390A EAC '67 contract.

Testimony: > The RCA Jack required a smaller hole. Besides the Heathkit HD-11 had an RCA > plug on it's connecting cable. I wouldn't want to desecrate the Heathkit by > doing any unauthorized mods to it 8^)

Ruling:

As two of the three judges are also Heathniks, we are sympathetic. We are also appreciative of the smallness of the hole required. However, the politically correct approach would be to install a mini-BNC (AKA MB connector) in the R-390A and to construct an adaptor cable consisting of an MB plug on one end and an RCA line socket on the other.

Testimony:

> Well, the Collins folks with all their wisdom DID NOT provide a "Notch > function" on this otherwise fine receiver. Besides, this way I can get > selectivity between 4 and 8 kHz, whatever is optimum for the station I'm > listening to. (8kc is often too wide and 4 too narrow)

While the tribunal considers it unwise to question the design of the ancient masters (faux pas, taboo, a no-no), it is nevertheless forced to agree that "8kc is often too wide and 4 too narrow". To wit, the presence of 6kc on many other receivers.

Testimony:

> I just looked at the nomenclature plate on this '67 EAC and the only > frequency that is shown on it is 48-62 cycles. Am I missing something > here??? And NO, it is not one of those phoney plates that you buy through > ER 8^)

The tribunal points out that the prosecuting attorney (JAG guy) is not under oath. Apparently not all nomenclature plates, AKA tags, state the receiving frequency range. This charge is dismissed.

Verdict: Guilty with an explanation.

Sentence: The defendant is released in his own recognizance. (Which means, we think, next time you shave, make darn sure that's you in the mirror.)

Signed: The Tribunal Larry, Moe & Curly

> Runnin' and duckin' in Central California (where've I heard that before).

You can run, you can duck, but you can't hide from the Inquisition, er, Tribunal.

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Fri Oct 25 15:11:09 2002
Subject: [R-390] Buyers Market

At \$1400? for an A? Who did you say rebuilt it; God? John

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Fri Oct 25 15:15:02 2002
Subject: [R-390] Get Things

Hey, Anyone get anything from me recently? Junk or no, I like to know... Regards, John

From anchor@ec.rr.com Fri Oct 25 16:18:44 2002
Subject: [R-390] Get Things

Did you send us any "care packages"?? UPS man hasn't been here lately. 73, Al P

From ka6uup@pacbell.net Fri Oct 25 20:37:39 2002
Subject: [R-390] R388 question

My R388 had the typical pto problem which i am in the process of fixing. I hope someone can help me with a question. I have forgotten whether the pto adjustment slug was all the way out or all the way in before I removed a winding to correct the problem. I want to go the other way (which ever way that is) to compensate for further aging. TIA, Chuck ka6uup@pacbell.net

From courir26@yahoo.com Fri Oct 25 22:45:04 2002
Subject: [R-390] R388 question

I think you'll want to move it out, at least part way. The usual direction to have to adjust it is in (CW).
Tom N5OFF

From djmerz@3-cities.com Fri Oct 25 23:42:31 2002
Subject: [R-390] R 392 T-602 bfo

Hi, I am puzzling over the three connections to the bfo unit out of an R-392 receiver, T-602 type 70J-2. Looking at the connections end on, the one first one starting at 9 o'clock is the the number 1

connection going to the grid capacitor and the bfo pitch capacitor, but then I'm not sure about the other two that are adjacent going clockwise. I think the next one is the cathode connection (called number 3 in the schematic I have) and the most clockwise one is the ground connection (called number 2) in the schematic I have.

The schematic is from TM5820-334-35-13, which is the only documentation I have in hand. I've looked at the pictorals in this manual but can't convince myself about this conclusion from the appearance of the wiring because details aren't that good. I did some resistance measurements but without knowing how the lower leg is wound (continuous with tap vs. additional coil wound on top of first) I don't really know how to interpret the measurements. Does anyone know the answer? thanks, Dan.

From dsmaples@comcast.net Sat Oct 26 00:38:57 2002
Subject: [R-390] Modded my R-390A...

All: I haven't laughed so hard at all this in a long, long time. It sure makes radioing fun again. And believe me, folks, when you do this stuff for a living as I do (commercial "wireless" [boy, I HATE that term!] provider}, the diversion and recalibration is VERY important! Yes, Phil is guilty...and so are the rest of you...of reminding me again why I continue to do this and enjoy it so.

At least a few folks mentioned ARC-5 stuff. They are absolutely correct that the ARC-5 platform (along with the BC-348 and some others) probably taught more folks more about radio and electronics than many, many other devices. It sure helped me along (although I could have learned a lot more).

On a more serious note: I'd love to see the 6AQ5 audio mods for the R-390A audio stage, and the low-frequency mod that Phil is "guilty" of carrying out. The only LF work I have done with the R-390A was shown to me by another fellow, and it wasn't much of a mod (I didn't retain it). Are those published anywhere?

I'm sitting listening to the R-390A right now, tuned to the BBC... Dave WB4FUR

From w7itc@hotmail.com Sat Oct 26 19:01:54 2002
Subject: [R-390] tools

What do you call the nut driver that fits the slotted retaining rings that are used on pot's, and toggle switches, etc. and where can I find such a tool. I am tired of using the wrong tool on these rings.
Kenneth A. Crips W7ITC

From Aidehua@aol.com Sun Oct 27 00:04:48 2002
Subject: [R-390] Need Tubes

Need two NOS/JAN tube sets for the R-390A. Please state price. Thanks, Ed NI6S

From courir26@yahoo.com Sat Oct 26 13:10:26 2002

<http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1391472012>

From w9wis@charter.net Sun Oct 27 01:14:58 2002
Subject: [R-390] Very Nice 390A, Hope You Are Sitting Down

Go to their web site and you can see what they are selling it for in their used radio section (<http://www.radioera.com/mall/Radiostore.asp>) scroll down \$3600 shipped in the USA!!

Looks sort of like a Collins IF to me.... if the Amelco contract was in 1962 wouldn't the filters have had trimmers ? Mike, W9WIS

From w7itc@hotmail.com Sun Oct 27 01:25:07 2002
Subject: [R-390] Very Nice 390A, Hope You Are Sitting Down

Museum quality indeed, My EAC R390A/URR looks nearly that good and it is unrestored, phooey and double phooey!!!

By the way the tool I was looking for is called a blade spanner. I found them here...<http://www.micro-tools.com> Thanks for the other links they went in to my books marks, good sources. Kenneth A. Crips W7ITC

From billsmith@ispwest.com Sun Oct 27 01:41:57 2002
Subject: [R-390] Very Nice 390A, Hope You Are Sitting Down

Hi, Ken

Can you supply a more specific URL? I looked under "screwdrivers" but didn't see spanner wrenches.
Bill

From mikobrien@yahoo.com Sun Oct 27 01:47:32 2002
Subject: [R-390] Very Nice 390A, Hope You Are Sitting Down

Hi Mike The back of the receiver is collins - one fuse Mike

From Llgpt@aol.com Sat Oct 26 17:53:44 2002
Subject: [R-390] FS Cross Post

For Sale: MK1. Recapped with orange drops. Filter electrolytic replaced. Aligned and necessary tubes replaced,

Original manual. This is one of the nicest SX-100's I have ever seen or owned. Chassis is pristine, no typical corrosion. \$325 shipped Continental U.S. Les Locklear

From rbethman@comcast.net Sun Oct 27 01:59:55 2002
Subject: [R-390] Very Nice 390A, Hope You Are Sitting Down

Looks are everything - NOT!

Ken - yours MAY look as good, BUT I DOUBT it is up to the standards of one of these GOVERNMENT FINANCED complete REBUILDS. Wonder how much the government put into these, ESPECIALLY since it became a HOT time-line issue. Impending/actual war, and state-of-the-art reduced to fried circuits.

Harris Corp STILL insists that it was "poor filter maintenance" that was at fault. They STILL refuse to acknowledge that the talcum powder like desert sand created such static charges, that when blown across an antenna it fried the IFs.

Same problem in Afghanistan!

This looks to be one of the 500 that Uncle Sam COMPLETELY restored to ORIGINAL condition for Desert Storm.

I'd STILL like to be able to afford it! It would be in THIS Shack PDQ! I'd also like a source for the C603 C606 caps that Uncle put in them during the restoration. Eventually these wonders will hit the market. Hopefully in a more affordable range. Makes you wonder - Which warehouse, WHERE, are all of these resources kept? Bob - N0DGN

From R390rcvr@aol.com Sun Oct 27 01:01:12 2002
Subject: [R-390] # of fuses

The 1st four contracts were all single fuses rigs. The 0014-PH-56 Motorola contract switched to 3 fuses at #2683. Randy

From w9wis@charter.net Sun Oct 27 01:05:17 2002
Subject: [R-390] Very Nice 390A, Hope You Are Sitting Down

> The back of the receiver is collins - one fuse

Or a Motorola like mine... Mike, W9WIS

From hankarn@pacbell.net Sun Oct 27 01:49:13 2002
Subject: [R-390] Very Nice 390A, Hope You Are Sitting Down

The 67 EAC and CV/591 that I have up for sale is at least all EAC and is as clean and functional with out all of the hype and both pieces are less than half his price and the 3 fuses are correct. Hank KN6DI

From hankarn@pacbell.net Sun Oct 27 01:51:48 2002
Subject: [R-390] Very Nice 390A, Hope You Are Sitting Down

Another Depot Dawg. All spiffed up Hank

From rbethman@comcast.net Sun Oct 27 02:04:37 2002
Subject: [R-390] Very Nice 390A, Hope You Are Sitting Down

And you would turn it down? Bob - N0DGN

From k06bb@elite.net Sun Oct 27 03:20:00 2002
Subject: [R-390] That R-390A "BFO Thingy"

Hello all.

I use VERY sharp audio filters with my R-390a in the CW mode. While my receiver is easier tuning than 'most' I've had it can still be a little difficult sometimes to exactly set the tuning in the center of the Audio bandpass (my present sharpest filter is 80 Hz but I have a much sharper one coming). I sometimes like to tune my receiver where the desired signal makes it through the filter and the undesired is off the slope of the filter, sometimes hard to do with strong nearby carriers.

I sometimes use the BFO to "tweak" the audio note a tad but then have to reset it back as I use the 100Hz IF filter too. Resettability is good, but could be better.

Some of the 390A's I've seen have a little BFO vernier for setting the BFO. Are these good and resettable (seems like they would be). Can they be retrofitted to a receiver that doesn't have one or is it a pain? And lastly, are they available at reasonable cost? Can't get one right now but I'd be interested in hearing what the group has to say. 73 de Phil KO6BB

From r.tetrault@attbi.com Sun Oct 27 03:51:35 2002
Subject: [R-390] That R-390A "BFO Thingy"

They aren't verniers; they are still 1:1, and so their settability is only marginally better than the front panel. IMHO Bob

From k06bb@elite.net Sun Oct 27 01:20:07 2002
Subject: [R-390] Very Nice 390A, Hope You Are Sitting Down

> <http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1391472012>

Wasn't it P.T. Barnum who said there is one born every minute. He said it was restored by one of the best in the business, but doesn't say who. And of course all the tube shields are even "polished" so that they are sure to retain their heat well. Heck, even my '67 EAC has the black heat conducting tube shields. 73 de Phil KO6BB

From barry@hausernet.com Sun Oct 27 05:54:13 2002
Subject: [R-390] That R-390A "BFO Thingy"

Hi Phil & crew:

I bought a couple of those odometer style BFO knob things a while back. As Bob pointed out, they are not verniers 1:1. The idea may have been to improve reset-ability, but they introduce some slop. Some may be worn inside and the action is rough.

They are not difficult to fit, but I doubt if it will help you. Best bet is to find the small "combination lock" style verniers the ones you see on some scopes and other test equipment, though I don't know if they use a 1/4" or 1/8" shaft size. They usually also have a locking lever. That would give you vernier

reduction and an accurate scale for resetting. Not sure how they mount up.

Alternatively, there are those small inline vernier couplings which I think are still available new from catalog sellers. It's possible they would just fit in without drilling, but the existing shaft might have to be shortened. The ones I'm thinking of don't have scales, though. Barry

From myyoung76@bellsouth.net Sun Oct 27 06:23:31 2002

Subject: [R-390] Rack Mounting a R390

How do you guys rack mount your R390? Do you put some angle aluminum in the sides of the rack for the edges of the R390 to sit on so you can slide it back into place? Or do you use full extension slides?

In either case, how do you locate the angles or the slides so the front panel of the R390' mounting holes line up with the rack's holes?

Or do you just manhandle it with 2 or 3 people and support it entirely with front panel screws? (Kinda scary) THNX Mikey

From barry@hausernet.com Sun Oct 27 06:47:21 2002

Subject: [R-390] Very Nice 390A, Hope You Are Sitting Down

Phil wrote:> Wasn't it P.T. Barnum who said there is one born every minute. He said it
> was restored by one of the best in the business, but doesn't say who.

Remember there was all that hubbub about sellers trading on the names of Rick Mish and Chuck Rippel. So maybe Terry is just trying to be discrete/respectful on that issue.

It's not obvious who the restorer was on this. From what I understand, Chuck doesn't do gear train teardowns and usually refits with IERC shields. It looks like there's a resistor in the ballast tube shield. The 26Z5W's are still there. (or maybe not the bottom view is not of the same rx.) I thought Rick Mish puts in diodes and some other mods which aren't apparent from the photos. I'm not sure what Terry means by "down to the chassis level". Simply removing modules down to the H frame is no big deal. He doesn't mention whether the unit was partially or totally recapped. I see big nylon washers on the panel screws. Is that someone's trademark?

The tube shields are a noticable drawback, but I've seen shiny ones with pleated beryllium copper inserts which are flat black and conduct heat to the shield. (Same as in some of the better IERC's) I wouldn't bank on it though.

Boatanchor photo forensics aside, I'm sure anyone bidding that much on a radio should be emailing with questions which I'm sure Terry will answer and probably disclose the restorer's name as well.

As far as the P.T. Barnum aspect of it, Terry - or whoever wrote the copy is a pro very slick, very well done from a promotional standpoint. I admire the work. Much of it is about R-390A's in general extolling the virtues and benefits which is part of selling the product. Incidentally, someone assumed from the copy that this unit was a government rebuild that went to Desert Storm. He doesn't say that. That was a reference to the general history of the R-390A, not this one per se. The front end of the description is largely generic. Well written and impressive. Maybe Terry will let us glom it for a website somewhere.

Again anyone considering this should email questions, which is encouraged. As for the price? I was sitting down when I read the first post, but fell off my chair. I must remember to buckle up next time. ;-)
Barry

From kc8opp@yahoo.com Sun Oct 27 11:49:07 2002
Subject: [R-390] Rack Mounting a R390

Michael,

I have two R-390s in a rack here, and I would defiantly suggest using angle supports and not just the front panel.

I laid the rack on its back side and set the radios in where I wanted them, aligned the front panel holes and then fabricated the supports. If you have to empty the rack to lay it down it will be worth the extra work, and I would not recommend setting the rack upright with the R-390 installed. Hope this helps,
73's Roger KC8OPP

From lexa@mail.island.net Sun Oct 27 17:11:25 2002
Subject: [R-390] Capehart Audio Deck

Hi,

I've got a odd ball number on my R-390A audio deck. Is anyone familiar with this? CAPEHART 21908-PC-61 SM 248601 SER. 547 Thanks, Leo VE7LMJ QCI

From N2PNT@aol.com Sun Oct 27 23:18:30 2002
Subject: [R-390] Manual sources for the R-391

Hello to all,

As I type these words, somewhere in the back of a cold dark UPS truck, a lonesome R-391 is clanking and rattling its way to my doorstep. Needless to say I'm anxiously awaiting its arrival! I've checked the usual web sites for a manual with no luck. Does anyone know where I can find a downloadable copy of TM11-863 or any other documentation for the R-391? Thanks! Phil /N2PNT
Solder first, ask questions later

From barry@hausernet.com Sun Oct 27 18:16:25 2002
Subject: [R-390] That R-390A "BFO Thingy"

Bob wrote:> They are ALL 1:1. They were built for multi-turn pots which were therefore > built-in verniers over the single turn variety. They all mount to the front > panel nut.

Hi Bob:

Well, I think you're right on the small scope type verniers. Newark lists a bunch of them. Here's one:

http://www.newark.com/NewarkWebCommerce/newark/en_US/support/catalog/productDetail.jsp?id=12F4498

15 turns, but as I recall, I've always seen those coupled to a multiturn pot as you point out. The business end turns 15 times around, or 11 for the other models.

But never say "ALL". ;-)

There is a similar style, but larger 1.5 to 2 inches in diameter which are true verniers with reduction. Mouser lists 3 of them. Here's the link to the pdf page:

http://www.mouser.com//index.cfm?handler=fra_pdfset&dir=612&pdf=665

These appear to be of the same style as the ones Radio Shack used to carry. I may have one or two lying around somewhere. They provide an 8 to 1 gear reduction. However, they mount up not by the front panel nut, but flush-mount with 3 screws. They take a 1/4" shaft, but have a coupling with (as I recall) a round head screw rather than a setscrew, so may need an oversized hole to clear. Not sure how much play is available on the depth. One possibility to avoid drilling 3 holes (arghhhh!) is to use 3M mounting tape. That's the stuff that's sticky on both sides, thick and rubbery. It will hold for sure, but when the time comes to remove it, it will probably take the paint with it. I seem to recall these having a rotation of 270 degrees, roughly matching a typical pot. However, the Mouser description says "calibrated for 180 degrees rotation" which should be good for the BFO anyway.

The last type I mentioned in my previous post was truly a gear reduction drive, but I haven't found a listing for it. These were simply a knob shaft, a drive shaft and a disk shaped "gearbox" in the middle. (might have been a friction drive) No knob, no scale. Not sure how it mounted. Used to be in all the major catalogs in the old days. Anybody familiar with those? Barry

From myyoung76@bellsouth.net Sun Oct 27 23:59:22 2002
Subject: [R-390] Rack Mounting a R390

Thanks for the information. Looks like everyone is on the same wavelength. I had mine mounted in a console about 10 years ago....and I "think" I used 2" angle Al 1/8" thick. But I can't remember. I got rid of the console (a 3 bay unit) for some stupid reason. Wish I had it back.

As far as the slides are concerned, I worked for years at Cape Canaveral and at our HF receiving site, we had gobs of these things along with CVC RTTY demods, and just about everything was slide mounted to be able to pull out and fix in place. TNX again. Mike

From ross@hypertools.com Mon Oct 28 00:03:18 2002
Subject: [R-390] Manual sources for the R-391

BAfolks - Downloadable manuals available at: <http://www.kg7bz.com/Manuals.html>

Yep, there is an R-391 book there... Cool radio, good luck with it. 73 Dave Ross N7EPI
ross@hypertools.com

From hankarn@pacbell.net Mon Oct 28 00:04:00 2002
Subject: [R-390] Rack Mounting a R390

The radios were designed to be rack mounted by using only the front panel mounting holes. Many

1,000's of them were done that way with no ill effect.

Angles just make it a little easier with a lot more effort. Hank KN6DI

From Sun Oct 27 19:46:38 2002
Subject: [R-390] Rack Mounting a R390]

I used a piece of 1" x 1" steel angle to span the back of the cabinet, thus supporting the back panel.

The radio is supported on this angle and the front panel screws. How do you make it all align? Measure VERY carefully. Better to be a bit low and shim the back so as not to twist the front. Ron Hunsicker

From lexa@mail.island.net Sun Oct 27 22:50:17 2002
Subject: [R-390] Capehart Audio Deck

Hi,
I've got a odd ball number on my R-390A audio deck. Is anyone familiar with this? CAPEHART 21908-PC-61 SM 248601 SER. 547 Thanks, Leo VE7LMJ QCI

From w9wis@charter.net Mon Oct 28 00:09:03 2002
Subject: [R-390] Manual sources for the R-391

Right here: <http://www.kg7bz.com/Manuals.html>

This is a great resource for military boat anchor manuals. Mike, W9WIS

From Llgpt@aol.com Mon Oct 28 00:16:42 2002
Subject: [R-390] Capehart Audio Deck

writes: << Hi, I've got a odd ball number on my R-390A audio deck. Is anyone familiar with this? CAPEHART 21908-PC-61 SM 248601 SER. 547 Thanks, Leo VE7LM

Hi Leo and Group,

This has shown up before, it is just one of many spare parts contracts. Les Locklear

From N2PNT@aol.com Mon Oct 28 00:18:33 2002
Subject: [R-390] Manual sources for the R-391

Thanks for the all the quick responses. It's funny how some sites don't reveal themselves when doing a search. I'll be bookmarking this one. Regards, Phil /N2PNT Solder first, ask questions later...

From r.tetrault@attbi.com Sun Oct 27 17:14:47 2002
Subject: [R-390] That R-390A "BFO Thingy"

They are ALL 1:1. They were built for multi-turn pots which were therefore built-in verniers over the single turn variety. They all mount to the front panel nut. Bob

From jamesmiller20@worldnet.att.net Sun Oct 27 12:57:26 2002
Subject: [R-390] Very Nice 390A, Hope You Are Sitting Down

Strange.. Looks like TSM (the seller) and ww-ii collector (the current high bidder) are both in Dallas, Tx area. The others seem to have no "sell" history. How many user ID's does eBay allow you to have? A couple of high volume buyers in there too. Watch out guys!

From jamesmiller20@worldnet.att.net Sun Oct 27 13:03:52 2002
Subject: [R-390] Very Nice 390A, Hope You Are Sitting Down

Worth a read: <http://pages.ebay.com/help/community/shillbidding.html#1>

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Mon Oct 28 01:19:43 2002
Subject: [R-390] Reflector Bug???

I'm getting repeats of earlier posts something gone gaflooy? Barry

From Llgpt@aol.com Mon Oct 28 01:20:42 2002
Subject: [R-390] Reflector Bug???

writes:<< I'm getting repeats of earlier posts something gone gaflooy? Barry

I'm not, must be your "Windoze" Komputer. Les

From jonandvalerieoldenburg@worldnet.att.net Mon Oct 28 01:57:34 2002
Subject: [R-390] Very Nice 390A, Hope You Are Sitting Down

> It's not obvious who the restorer was on this. From what I understand, > Chuck doesn't do gear train tear downs and usually refits with IERC shields.

I thought Rick Mish puts in diodes and some other mods which aren't apparent I must interject here. Both Chuck and Rick do complete gear train tear downs on restorations. Chucks are usually refitted worth the IREC shields, I have seen photos of Mish jobs using them too. Rich has been known for some more over the edge cosmetic details, which have been documented on the list. It is an exceptionally clean example, I don't recall what Chuck's recent foray in to e-Bay sales this past year yielded on prices. It's hard to predict prices. An auction offered by a well known restorer, or in this case dealer/ museum (hey with all my stuff this is a museum here?) will offer a degree of confidence and possibly a higher price. I doubt shill bidding to establish a new level for the receivers in this case, mainly due to the doubling of the recent price range in this case. I've always maintained great photos make or break an auction, and these are great ones. They appear to have grabbed the attention of someone with deep pockets. Just my 2-cents worth Jon AB9AH

From hankarn@pacbell.net Mon Oct 28 02:04:31 2002

Subject: [R-390] Very Nice 390A, Hope You Are Sitting Down

I think TSM is one step removed from CG in Paris, TX. Shilling bids no never happen, it is not legal
!!!!!!!!!! Hank

From k06bb@elite.net Mon Oct 28 04:54:10 2002
Subject: [R-390] That "BFO Thingy" Reprise...

Hello all.

Thanks to everyone for their answers to my "Thingy" question. (How do you like that highly technical term?)

Well, general opinion seems to be that it won't really make a big difference in the resettability of the BFO, still 1:1. Some suggested getting a vernier such as is used on scopes etc and trying that. I have one of those that does have a reduction drive (called a Jackson drive?). It is a cheap one and I already know that it won't turn the BFO. Shucks, it wouldn't even turn a tuning capacitor I tried coupling it too! Besides, I REALLY don't want to drill holes, cut shafts etc 8^(Whatever I do MUST be reversable and not leave any evidence behind.

So, what I think I'm going to do is either make (or find) a small "dial plate" that can be mounted with the BFO bushing mounting nut. One of those old ones for pots etc that were used for homebrewing in the old days would be ideal. I think maybe Antique Electronics even offers those in their "antique radio" section. I'll have to check.

Then, I'll see if I can find a slightly oversized knob with a sharp pointer on it, kind of like the classic "chicken feet" knobs. Give me something to grip and better "resolution" on the dial. Save the old original knob to put back on if the rig is ever sold (it seems they all leave here eventually ;-)

Only thing I'll have to be careful of is the fact that I'll lose the "stop" on the tuning knob and will have to be sure I don't twist the BFO too far!!! 73 de Phil KO6BB

From k06bb@elite.net Mon Oct 28 08:03:44 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A's, Sandstate sets and Desert Storm static damage

Hello all.

You know, I keep reading about how "Uncles" modern radios used in Desert Storm suffered so much static damage from windblown sand etc that he rushed in R-390A's, KWM-2's etc.

I have seen large static buildup on wire antennas, so I know it's real. When I was in the Barracks in Spain (mountaintop site) I had a longwire about 120' long or so stretched between two wings of the building. On more than one occasion I saw arcs over an inch long jump from the disconnected antenna to the radio case (tube radio 8^). And this on what seemed to be clear but windy days!

But, what doesn't make sense to me about these stories are two things.

1. It seems to me that on a receiver (or even a transmitter) it wouldn't be all that difficult to couple the antenna to the set through a Balun or Unun so that the receiver ALWAYS has a DC path between the antenna and it's ground thus making sure that a high DC couldn't be coupled into the radio and likewise on the antenna side a DC path to ground to prevent any Voltage buildup. Where you get into trouble is

when there is no DC path to drain the static off. Any Radio man worth his salt ought to know this.

2. In desert conditions like Desert Storm it "seems" to me that dirt and grit getting into the gears (and slug tuned coils) of a R-390A or tuning mechanism/tuning slugs of a KWM-2 would prove far more troublesome to reliability! (Ask those who bought "Blue strippers" and had to clean em). 73 de Phil KO6BB

From rbethman@comcast.net Mon Oct 28 08:37:03 2002

Subject: [R-390] R-390A's, Sandstate sets and Desert Storm static damage

Phil - Read comments made throughout. Bob

Original Message [R-390] R-390A's, Sandstate sets and Desert Storm static damage

| You know, I keep reading about how "Uncles" modern radios used in Desert | Storm suffered so much static damage from windblown sand etc that he rushed | in R-390A's, KWM-2's etc.

| I have seen large static buildup on wire antennas, so I know it's real. | When I was in the Barracks in Spain (mountaintop site) I had a longwire | about 120' long or so stretched between two wings of the building. On more | than one occasion I saw arcs over an inch long jump from the disconnected | antenna to the radio case (tube radio 8^). And this on what seemed to be | clear but windy days!

| But, what doesn't make sense to me about these stories are two things.

| 1. It seems to me that on a receiver (or even a transmitter) it wouldn't be | all that difficult to couple the antenna to the set through a Balun or Unun | so that the receiver ALWAYS has a DC path between the antenna and it's | ground thus making sure that a high DC couldn't be coupled into the radio | and likewise on the antenna side a DC path to ground to prevent any Voltage | buildup. Where you get into trouble is when there is no DC path to drain | the static off. Any Radio man worth his salt ought to know this.

The FIRST thing to consider - Uncle is MOBILE. The Hummers, Jeeps, 2 1/2 tons, Tanks and the rest are "moving". This doesn't allow for a "ground".

They are using vehicle mounted whips, not dipoles or the like.

The few times they set up a command post, they are still using whips (for the most part) to maintain polarity with the masses. They may get lucky and drive a ground rod or two - IN DESERT SAND. Essentially NO GROUND.

The only thing I can attest to - from spending time out "there", the static buildup is horrendous! The sand provides NO MEANS of a ground.

Tactical necessity doesn't allow for digging deep trenches, heat issues preclude using water to soak grounds. The people NEED IT MORE.

Sliding an R-390A out of the case and blowing compressed air through it is not a problem. Keeps them functional. What do you do with a finicky Harris - Watkins Johnson, or whatever? They can't take the static, can't take the heat!, and die faster than you can replace them. That's why Uncle keeps R-390As in a warehouse in Northern Calif, all refurbished, and ready to go. "Spares included"!

| 2. In desert conditions like Desert Storm it "seems" to me that dirt and | grit getting into the gears (and slug tuned coils) of a R-390A or tuning | mechanism/tuning slugs of a KWM-2 would prove far more troublesome to | reliability! (Ask those who bought "Blue stripers" and had to clean em).

Bob - N0DGN U.S. Army Spec Ops Retired SFC

From courir26@yahoo.com Mon Oct 28 11:59:11 2002
Subject: [R-390] Odd Contracts, Was Capehart Audio Deck

Leo, I heard about this long ago according to my records. I heard it from you! Looks like a spare parts contract. Here are some others. There are no whole sets associated with these.

Electronic Assistance Corp	DAAB05-68-C-0039	
Electronic Assistance Corp	N00126-70-C-0359	Stewart-Warner
42428-PC-59-A1-51		
Stewart-Warner	DA-36-039-SC-81549	
Communications System	FR-11-022-C-4-26418(E)	
Clavier Corp.	DAAG05-67-C-0016	
Clavier Corp.	DAAG05-67-C-0136	
Motorola	RF Deck	14385-PC-58-51
Teledyne	IF Deck	37856-PC-63
Hacking Labs, Menlo Park CA	PS Deck	DLA400-80-C-2948

From courir26@yahoo.com Mon Oct 28 12:18:16 2002
Subject: [R-390] Gulf War 390A's?

Gentlemen:

I don't doubt that the static is a big problem. Heck it gets bad in the US with long ants. I have a note from a chap with Harris who had a devil of a time keeping thier stuff running. However I've never heard a first hand account of 390A's being used in the Gulf.

Contrary to what's been metioned on this list, the Mac-Cabinets were not built for the Gulf War. They were built in the mid eighties by Laboy Industries in Camden, NJ, years before the Gulf War.

Through FOIA, I wrote to Ft Monmouth and asked for inventory, and last known requisition for 390A's from CECOM. They replied that they had none on hand, and sent me a copy of the last requisition for a handful of sets for an outfit in Germany.

I'd be happy to add to my files any first hand accounts or photos of 390As used in the Gulf War. Patriot Radar "ON" Tom

From cbscott@ingr.com Mon Oct 28 13:42:07 2002
Subject: [R-390] Very Nice 390A, Hope You Are Sitting Down

If it's mint, then where is the screwdriver and bristol wrench? Barry - N4BUW

From djmerz@3-cities.com Mon Oct 28 17:59:01 2002
Subject: [R-390] R 392 T-602 bfo

Hi guys, with no answer, I guess I'll take the next shortest route to my question and hook it up - if it doesn't work, I'll reverse the two leads in question to get the phase correct. At least I don't have to try 6 permutations, hi. Dan.

From David_Wise@Phoenix.com Mon Oct 28 23:10:00 2002
Subject: [R-390] R 392 T-602 bfo

There is no strong reason for it to be different from the R-390*, in which it's a single winding with a tap near one end. The end nearest the tap is ground, the far end is the grid and resonating cap, and the tap is the cathode. If I'm remembering right, that's a standard Hartley oscillator circuit. 73, Dave Wise

From rbethman@comcast.net Mon Oct 28 23:23:29 2002
Subject: [R-390] Very Nice 390A, Hope You Are Sitting Down

Helmut,

Like every other radio we see being sold as "mint". If it is "mint", in my mind it is STILL in its original UNSEALED packaging. But, alas, the radio community doesn't seem to have the same standards as the ones used for coinage. Bob - N0DGN

From wa9vrh@ocslink.com Mon Oct 28 23:37:05 2002
Subject: [R-390] Very Nice 390A, Hope You Are Sitting Down

Hi All, I would suggest that you go to the Collins Collectors Association website about our grading standards at:

http://www.collinsradio.com/html/cca_grading.html Check out the standards that were set up a number of years ago for Collins equipment. These were developed by Collins experts a number of years ago to keep the "standard" on an even plane. For more information please contact any of our BoD members listed on the CCA website www.collinsradio.org 73's Larry WA9VRH Collins Collectors Association Archive Manager VP, Collins Collectors Association

From hankarn@pacbell.net Tue Oct 29 00:33:45 2002
Subject: [R-390] Very Nice 390A, Hope You Are Sitting Down

With all of that HYPER ad copy he should be the greatest ad salesperson in the world or at least he should be able to sustain a HOT AIR balloon for circumnavigation around the world in MINT never used condition without having the weight of propane tanks and the associated items. He could use the MINT R-390A as a weather broadcast monitor.

If it is MINT how did all of the parts get all mixed up with different vendors. etc. etc. Hank KN6DI

From courir26@yahoo.com Tue Oct 29 02:13:01 2002
Subject: [R-390] Mint 30L-1!! (No, Really, It Is)

Gentlemen?

L@@@K!!!! <http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1392692503> Tom

From kurt.brandstetter@teleweb.at Tue Oct 29 02:59:06 2002
Subject: [R-390] Mint 30L-1!! (No, Really, It Is)

Hello !

As described:... IN ORIGINAL BOX AND STILL SEALED.... And the S-Meter is not at zero ??? Kurt
73 de Kurt

From kurt.brandstetter@teleweb.at Tue Oct 29 03:13:10 2002
Subject: [R-390] Mint 30L-1!! (No, Really, It Is)

Hello to all !

Many thanks for the information about the meter; did'nt know that - but I'm still learning, HI. Greetings
de Kurt 73 de Kurt

From hankarn@pacbell.net Tue Oct 29 04:28:50 2002
Subject: [R-390] Mint 30L-1!! (No, Really, It Is)

Kurt,

The plastic bag has a lot of wrinkles in it that would not be in a bag of 6 or 10 mil without a lot of handling. In most case in mil spec packaging the seal of the bag is at the rear or across the top. Hank
KN6DI 22 years in the professional packing business.

From w5kp@direcway.com Tue Oct 29 04:45:37 2002
Subject: [R-390] Mint 30L-1!! (No, Really, It Is)

Gentlemen, please... the 30L-1 is an amplifier, it has no "S-Meter". See
<http://www.collinsradio.org/html/30l-1.html> for a picture of a typical 30L-1. The meter on the one for auction looks just fine to me. Sheeesh. 73, Jerry W5KP

From rbethman@comcast.net Tue Oct 29 01:37:55 2002
Subject: [R-390] Very Nice 390A, Hope You Are Sitting Down

No, no Invader 2000. Wish I could locate and buy one.

"Mint sets", normally called Proof sets, come sealed from the mint. These are different than "uncirculayed which are allowed to have "bag" marks from being in the "bag", but yet are uncirculated.
Bob - N0DGN

From djmerz@3-cities.com Tue Oct 29 06:39:05 2002
Subject: [R-390] R 392 T-602 bfo

Hi, thanks to Roy Morgan for looking and reporting the pin order as 1, 2, 3 clockwise on T 602 going from grid, ground, cathode so it should work the first time I hook it up, hi. thanks to the others that

answered and offered help. By the way I must confess that this bfo unit is going into a Mackay 3010C that was missing several subchassis units that I'm replacing, bfo/bc band h.p. filter and attenuator. Somebody must have designated this a spare parts set at some time and robbed it. The dial tape mechanism is kaput also and missing some parts - I have a nifty digital display kit put out by AADE that is programmable for a large number of sets to adjust for i.f. / vfo that will fit nicely behind the original dial window so that's my solution for repairing the dial, at least for now - unless I run across a source for the original 16 mm fiberglass dial tapes. Dan.

From jbrannig@optonline.net Tue Oct 29 10:31:55 2002
Subject: [R-390] Mint 30L-1!! (No, Really, It Is)

The 30L-1 uses a "balancing" circuit for a tuning indicator. Therefore the meter zero is at 1/3 scale. I like the idea of an S-meter in the AMP. It would save the trouble of contacting another station for a report. :) Jim

From Danny Lunstrum" <dlvnstru@netins.net Tue Oct 29 14:03:12 2002
Subject: [R-390] Pre-production R-390

This is my first message to the group. I have been a subscriber and have been reading messages for some time. I went to a hamfest last Sunday and bought what I thought was an ordinary R-390 (non-A) receiver. The only thing that was out of the ordinary was the serial number- "PP-2". When I got home with the unit I noticed a poorly stenciled notice on the side. I cannot make out every word in it, but it sounds like this is a "Preproduction" R-390". Here is the what is stenciled on the side except for the few words that are illegible. "This equipment was tested as a preproduction sample by the Signal Corps Engineering Laboratories. It is ?? ???? intact without alteration or improvement of any kind for use by the Signal Corps ???? by ???." The question marks indicate words I cannot make out. The order number is 14214-PH-51-93 and was manufactured by Collins Radio Company. The ballast tube, V-512, is marked 2HTF11B and is missing. The front panel lettering is punched, not silkscreened. The power supply has a nomenclature tag with the serial number PP-7 stamped on it.

Can anyone give me any more information on this radio? I would appreciate it. Thank-you, Dan

From Richard.McClung@Dielectric.spx.com Tue Oct 29 14:32:54 2002
Subject: [R-390] Very Nice 390A, Hope You Are Sitting Down

How about a MINT Depot Dog???????????????????????????????? RICH @B> }

If it is MINT how did all of the parts get all mixed up with different vendors. etc. etc. Hank KN6DI

From Richard.McClung@Dielectric.spx.com Tue Oct 29 14:51:19 2002
Subject: [R-390] Mint 30L-1!! (No, Really, It Is)

Darn, where's my heat gun so I can seal this plastic bag. Zip-Locks won't do here.

Yahooooooooo!!!!!! Found it. I've got a MINT 75S-1 still sealed in the bag.

Now let's see, where is that stencil set so I can mark up the cardboard box to look authentic.

OK.... Now let's find a manual. HHmmmm, four digit serial number..... I'd better look for a 1st edition.

Man, I'm going to make a killing on E-Pay.....

Let's see what other mint stuff do I have?

Hey, Honey? Where's all those plastic bags you wanted me to throw out last week? RICH @B> }

From Richard.McClung@Dielectric.spx.com Tue Oct 29 15:02:48 2002
Subject: [R-390] Preproduction R-390

serial number- "PP-2"

How about Production Prototype..... I'll bet you could send all your kids to college (assuming you have kids) with what you could get off E-Pay for it. RICH @B> }

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Tue Oct 29 15:36:22 2002
Subject: [R-390] Buyers thingy and others

My Friends, (and I call you my friends?*!!@),

Its' great when we can have a list, and be a bit foolish at times, and have a good time doing it...BUT I want to apologize to any I have said the wrong thing about..at ANY time..A price is a personal thing..it is true that no one is making you buy...I think we all need to care about anothers feelings...(My thanks to the list owners..and don't be mad at me for doing a dumb thing on occasion, or wasting time..)

And, I will help a Menace if I can have an address..(Lost it..) (You MAY NOT appreciate the help...I do get fairly constant complaints about some of the junk stuff I send out...I am just trying to re-cycle...someday I will be thanked for this...won't I (???)

And, I am checking connections on mine (I mean the r-390...) and re-checking tubes..I do hope to get it going..If I don't, it will be traded for one that does go,...Still enjoying my SP 600...

And, I thank the many who wrote a personal. (Thanks to the oldwell, you know ... you are appreciated..)

And...where are some of the missing persons.(I know where Cathy is, and a few others I have recently heard from),but some of the best minds are missing from the list..(Or they thought they were the best minds...If the shoe has lost its soul...or something...) Please post something when you have a chance..as for my box...I love to hear from anybody..

I still believe this "bunch" measure in the area of "GREAT", compared to the other three lists I am on.. (Music and personal..) We can have FUN... (pretty rare at "my time in life...")

..Where seldom is heard, a discouraging foul comment... My Regards, John